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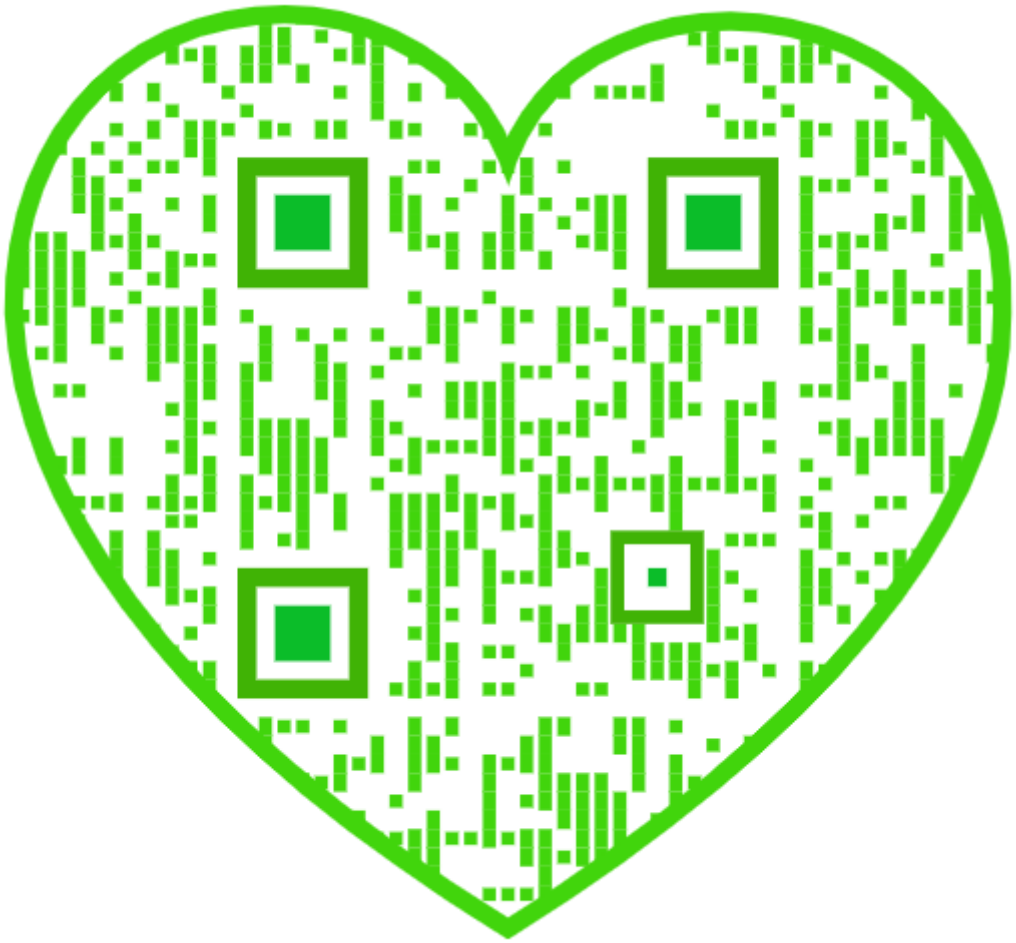
Practical Instruction

How to Alter Ill-Fitting Garments and How to Handle Try-Ons



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Practical Instruction

How to Alter Ill-Fitting Garments and How to Handle Try-Ons

Showing Illustrations How to Avoid Faults From the Beginning

PRICE, $5.00

By

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CHICAGO

Cuts and Reading Matter
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MAY -2 1919

Preface

I am convinced that this book, giving correct instructions how to alter ill-fitting garments, will only be consulted if my colleague is confronted with a misfit, which only leaves him the alternative of a correct and thorough alteration.

"Clothes make the man," but very often extensive alterations are essential before they fulfill this mission.

I might compare a garment, which needs alteration, with a patient seeking relief in the operating room. Sometimes the cure will be successful, but often hopes are not realized.

The causes which make faults appear are numerous and very different. Right at the start mistakes are made, either by not taking the correct measurements or careless drafting of the model, or by not using a dependable system, resulting naturally in a faulty cut. If, after trying on the garment, it is not altered in the right way, it need not surprise anybody if the ready garment does not fit. On the other hand, a garment measured and cut correctly might not fit if the tailoring does not conform with the cut.

The purpose of this book is to show how to make alterations in a successful and very simple manner. And my colleagues will judge its value according to the practical advantage which they will derive from it. A tailor of many years' experience will find nothing particularly new, but a beginner and less experienced tailor will find valuable instructions regarding the most difficult alterations. It requires a careful study to become an expert in the tailoring line. Very often it is entirely wrong to correct a fault where it shows. The correction has to be made in an indirect way and in such a case it is very important to know exactly how the fault originated. Furthermore, this book will show that often an alteration must be succeeded by another one to get the desired result. If the proportion of one part to another is changed, this change must conform with the other parts, in order that a fault corrected

in one place does not appear at another. Very often this is not given due consideration.

The purpose of this book is a double one.

It shall serve not only as an instructor for unavoidable alterations, but also direct the attention of the reader to the cause of the fault, and will give information which will avoid mistakes for the future.

In the same sense cases will be explained even though an alteration is impossible.

To accomplish this it is necessary to show, by illustrating the ill-fitting garments and how to change the cut, in which way an alteration can be made in a most simple and successful manner. Every tailor knows from experience that this is very valuable, as through incorrect alterations a garment which otherwise might be saved will be spoiled entirely.

Therefore, this book should be of especial interest, entering an entirely new field; namely, the alteration of ill-fitting garments.

Nevertheless, my instructions can be consulted not only when the garment is ready, but also after trying on if irregularities should show in the fit.

If the instructions are used accordingly, every colleague will see its advantage, as it will enable him in time to avoid mistakes and resulting alterations. Every tailor knows from experience what he will save on time and money.

The book illustrates the most common faults in overcoats, coats, vests and pants.

Certainly it does not exhaust all alterations, which would run into hundreds, even thousands, but which in general can be traced back to certain points and changed accordingly.

I close with the wish that the possessor of this book will not often have occasion to use it, as the less ill-fitting garments he has to alter the better it is for him. But I hope whoever is compelled to use it, will derive great benefit from it.

The Cutting

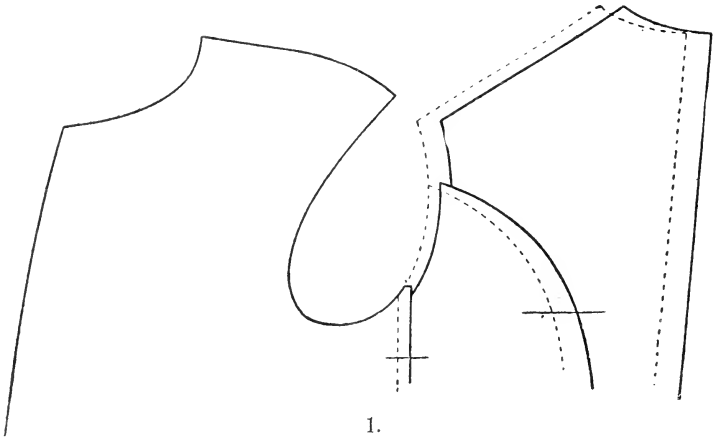
This chapter is not supposed to be devoted to a discussion of many cutting systems, but shall explain several simple cutting rules, which many cutters and tailors do not deem necessary to take into consideration. The question as to whether the direct or the indirect cutting systems are the best will not be discussed in this chapter. This dispute will probably not be decided easily, as each expert always believes his system the best and infallible on account of his familiarity with it and his success in business, which he ascribes to the use of it. Certainly, if you consider it from this viewpoint, everyone is right.

In fact, it is immaterial if a model is produced with the help of trigonometry, geometry, etc., or the proportion. The main thing always is that a correct cut be effected. If, then, the workmanship is correct (such as the cut requires), the result will be a well fitting garment.

Why is it that although nowadays the art of cutting is highly developed, always more mistakes occur than one would think possible? To a large degree it will be found due to the fact that many cutters are attentive only when cutting, but are superficial in the shaping and in workmanship. I will explain in the following part, that my assertions are correct.

Every expert knows, that careless or bad workmanship will spoil the best cut. Now, one should think, that the knowledge of this fact should cause each expert or cutter to instruct the tailor in a necessary and correct way regarding the shaping of the cut, so that no faults occur. It is to be regretted, that this is not always the case, as many of my colleagues think they have done their duty if the piece is cut out. But also, when cutting, one often will be careless. For instance, you see chalkmarks of about 3/8 of an inch on the separate parts, so that the tailor sometimes does not know where to put the stitches for the outlet; in front, in the center or behind the chalk. Notches for the putting together of the separate parts (Figs. 3, 5 and 6 show same in little cross lines) will be made very seldom, so that the tailor is at a loss to understand, and will in a case like this, as a

rule, baste or sew on the different parts in such a way, that the result will be a good run in the armhole. If an extra seam in the armhole is not added, on the model at the blade and at the front part, the back part will come out of its right place compared with the front part. Figures 1 and 2 give very plainly the proof for this assertion. Figures 1 and 2, full lines, show the correctly cut separate parts of the model put together in such a way. Figure 1 shows the seams which have to be sewed in, at the blade towards the armhole and at the front part, at the side seam, also in the armhole. Also the combination points are especially marked here with short cross lines. If one now sews the parts



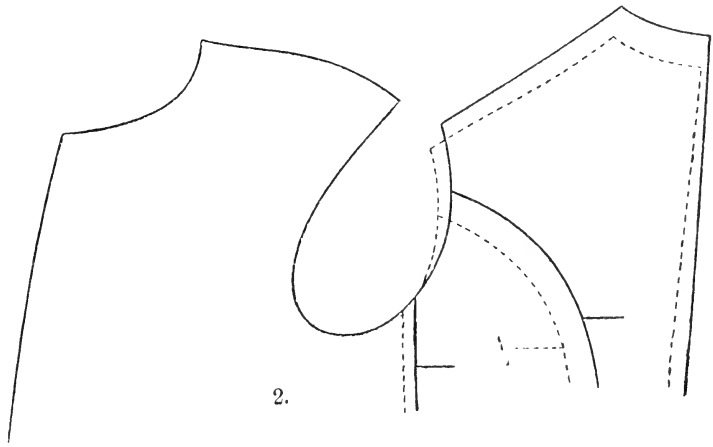
1.

together according to these marks, back and side parts will move in a horizontal direction and just as much as the seams required. Side and back part, however, will retain the same height as before (see the dotted lines in Fig. 1). It will be different if the previously described seams, which must be added at the front and side part in the armhole, are not there, and also no mark for the sewing together. In this case only the run in the armhole has to be considered as a standard.

If this is the only mark for the sewing together, the position of the side part and back part compared with the front part will be displaced and will extend too deep and too wide towards the back.

The dotted lines in Figure 2 show the displacement, not only of the entire back part but also (as the combination points have been placed as a proof) of the separate parts. A coat put together in such a way will be about one inch too short at the top, and consequently will fall down the neck. Besides in the armhole diameter towards the back it will be too large; across the back too wide; and below in the waist too long. It also will be too tight at this place.

This will show how little mistakes, when cutting, can cause much damage. The combination marks are also of considerable importance if, when the cutter is rushed, the separate parts in their end points are not correctly marked or cut. Despite this,



2.

the parts will come together in their right position and should the armhole be uneven, this can be equalized easily by utilizing the outlet. It is self-understood that these marks are necessary for putting together the back and front part of coats and overcoats. The sleeve in many cases is neglected, too. The cutter will, instead of cutting out the undersleeve himself, with only a few exceptions, add a piece of goods and leave the cutting of the undersleeve to the tailor. If the undersleeve would be marked at the top sleeve, the careful tailor would have a mark how to cut it, but without this he is compelled to cut the undersleeve according to his own judgment, which will only be correct in a few cases. Then is it a wonder if such a sleeve does not fit, and in many cases spoils the entire garment?

With the collar it will be similar. Only a very few tailors understand how to cut a correct fitting collar, therefore there should be added to each piece a correct and accurately cut collar model. But this is very seldom done. Much aggravation, trouble and time could be saved if there is a well fitting collar on the garment, as it scarcely can be believed how many faults an incorrect collar can cause.

Therefore be very careful when cutting the garment to instruct the tailor in everything which he must know and make it a standard rule not to permit the tailor to cut important parts, as he very seldom will possess the necessary knowledge.

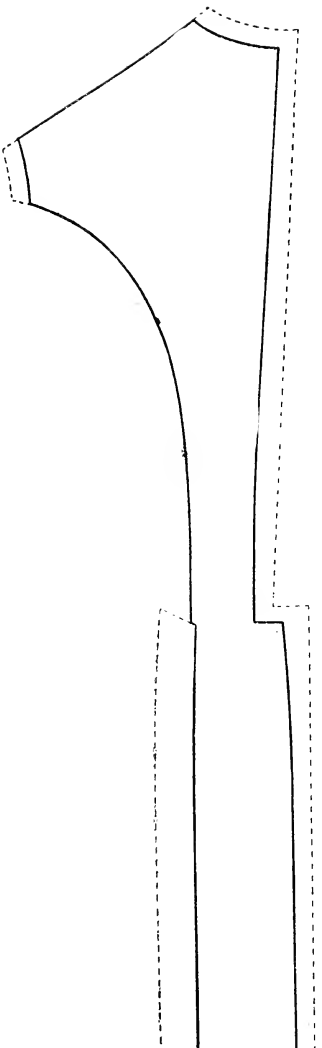
The sacrifice on time is small compared with the faults which are caused by superficial workmanship, so that every cutter should not omit to do the necessary work himself.

The Outlets

Even if applying all previous rules carefully, alterations will always be necessary, as nobody is infallible; not even the most conscientious tailor. Therefore, when tailoring according to measure, outlets will always have to be recommended, as they will make it possible to correct a faulty garment.

Even if one supposes, that every tailor knows on what places he has to leave outlets, it will do no harm to give some explanations. First, to explain the value and the purpose of certain outlets; and second, to prove that the outlets indicated on Figures 3 to 8 (with dotted lines) are sufficient in every case. At the back part, Figure 3, one will find outlets in the neck-hole, at the center seam, on both sides of the back skirts and at the armhole. The outlet at the neck hole will appear too small, but will be entirely sufficient, for its purpose is only to equalize the neck hole and a precaution for raveling goods.

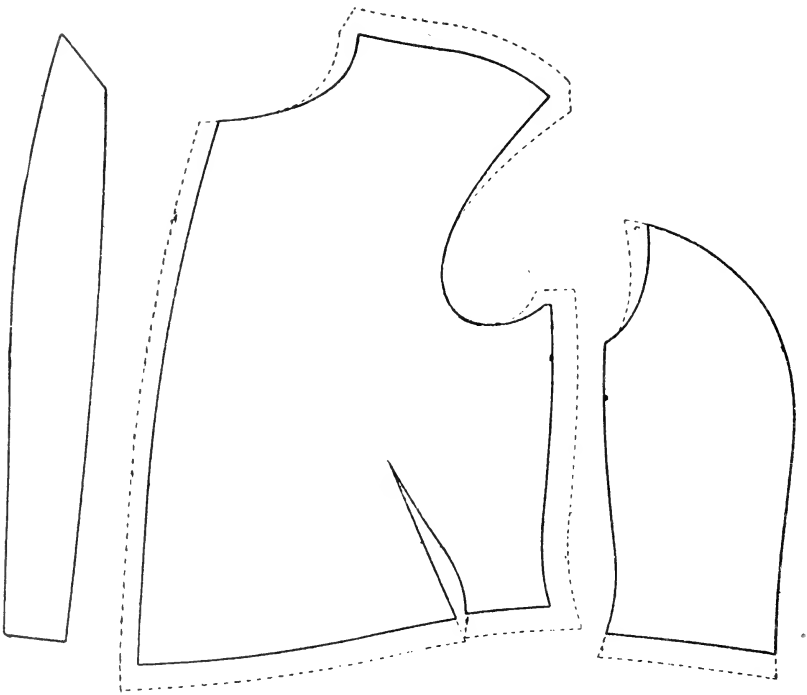
For setting the collar higher it only should be used, if necessary, for the regulation of the neck hole, and not more than about one-half inch. To correct a coat which pulls down at the neck, by setting the collar about one inch higher is entirely wrong, as this fault has to be remedied in another way. Many will consider the outlet at the armhole unnecessary, as for an eventual widening of the back the outlet in the center seam could be used. This may be the case once in a while, but not



3.

always. Furthermore, it should be considered, that the back part must be corrected again, which will cause unnecessary work, that should be avoided when altering.

The outlet at the armhole is also of advantage, because eventual deficiencies, which the armhole rounding might show, could be adjusted. It is never a disadvantage, but is often of great advantage for several alterations. This will be explained later on.



4. 5. 6.

Outlets shown at the front part, Figure 5, are well known to every tailor, therefore it will be unnecessary to mention them here.

The outlet in front at the breast-edge is not necessary except on coats with revers.

To be safe with other garments, one has to cut the button stand a little wider. To add about one to two inches more in front of the outlet will only be necessary if the cut is very faulty.

At the side part, Figure 6, outlet is only left in the armhole and in the waist seam. To place an outlet at the back seam is of no purpose; it will only draw. If the seam has been sewed and pressed already and one would then let out the outlet, the old seam always would appear again. Only a very simple customer would not object to this. If the coat must be made larger, the outlet at the front part has to be used. Even if the old seam would show a little, this would not matter very much, as the sleeve would cover this.

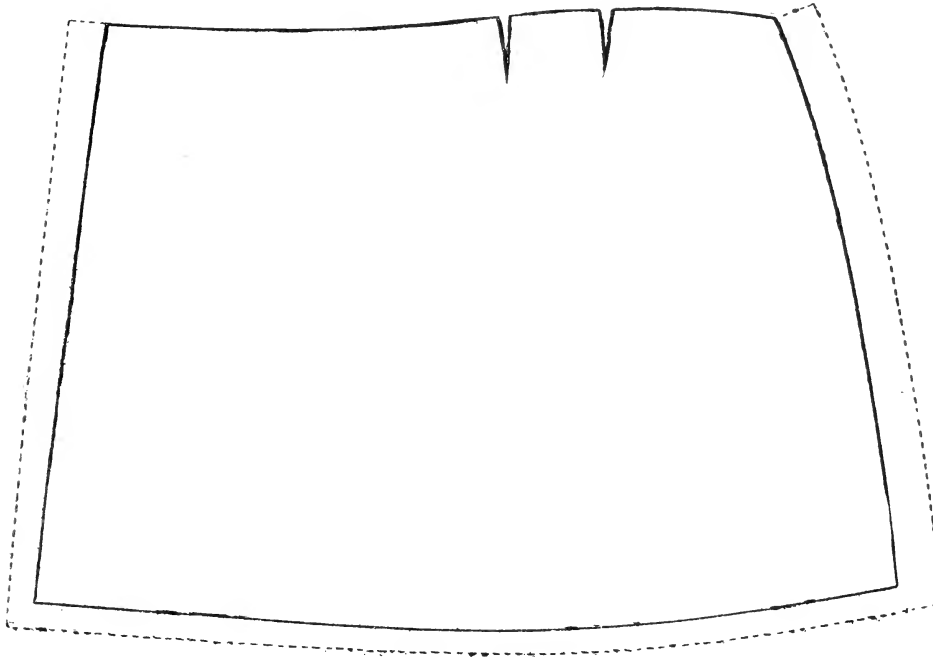


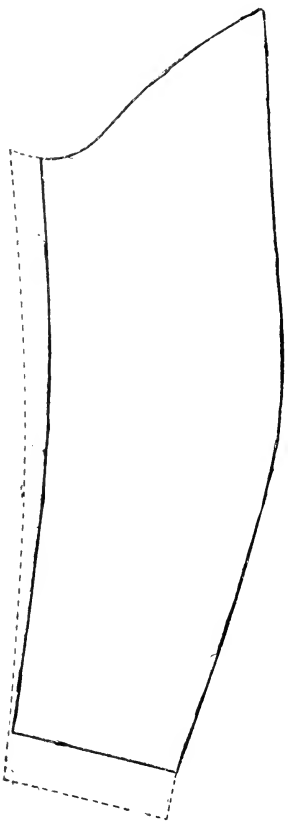
Fig. 7.

It should be mentioned here, also, that the side part must be cut as wide as possible, so that the seam does not appear in a conspicuous way.

Every tailor will know how much outlet is necessary for the skirt. This is plainly shown on Figure 7.

Regarding an eventual addition at the lower edge, see the directions in connection with the back skirt.

The undersleeve, Figure 8, has only outlet at the front seam. To place an outlet at the back seam is not recommended. If one would enlarge a sleeve by letting out the outlet at the back seam, this seam would turn too far on top of the arm. However, it is different if the sleeve is enlarged by letting out the outlet at the front seam of the undersleeve.



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In this case the seam will also turn a little more to the front, but as the undersleeve is always cut about 2 to 2½ inches smaller than the topsleeve, the front seam will lay originally under the arm. If the just described outlet had to be let out entirely, as in exceptional cases, the seam will not extend over the front center, but always to the inside, and therefore will not spoil the looks of the sleeve.

The latter instance would be the case if the extension would be made at the back seam. I do not think it has to be emphasized especially that the turnup shall not be too small (on top and undersleeve) and if the sleeve is made with an open vent, a button stand has to be added to it at the undersleeve.

The foregoing explains what kind of outlets are efficient on coats and overcoats, but one should be careful to give these an outlet in the back part at the armhole.

Also a rather large turnup below at the front and back part would be of advantage.

If the goods is wiry and hard finished, the seams, which have an outlet, should be sewed together by hand, not by machine. Otherwise, if let out, the old seam would be visible again. There is no danger of this if the goods is rough and soft. The pressing of the outlet seams has to be done very carefully. The same must not be pressed against the nap, or too hard. Neither must

it be scorched, because in none of these cases can the outlet be used again, without being noticed.

The Judging of the Faults and What Has to be Done to Remedy Them

All alterations must be made very carefully, and above all it has to be defined first what caused the fault; either an incorrect cut or faulty workmanship. This is not as easy as usually is supposed. In most cases a fault will not show at the seat of the trouble, but at an entirely different place.

Therefore an alteration should not be made at the place where the fault shows, unless one is convinced that it originated at that place. A garment is not always too wide or too long where superfluous length or width appears to be. The same might have originated in being too narrow or too short in another place. Pressure and uncomfortableness, especially in the front part of the armhole, cannot always be removed by cutting, but more correctly by letting out at another place. In this case especially much damage is done, as many tailors do not know any other way than cutting out the armhole.

Only the expert will never err. A less skilled tailor will be deceived by appearance and alter the garment at the place where it does not seem to fit. Such an alteration, made without experience and in an optimistic way, will always result in worse faults than before. These cause renewed corrections, which make the fit of the garment questionable, although several alterations have been made.

Therefore it must be urged again to first define the cause of a fault before altering. A wrong alteration will spoil the garment entirely.

The faults on a garment show in a different way, and as already mentioned before, very often at an entirely opposite place. In most cases they show through the appearance of wrinkles or through tightness at several places. The latter is

hard to discover, but the pressure and uncomfortableness will be noticed by the customer when wearing the garment.

Wrinkles which run straight and perpendicular are the result of a too extensive width. To remove these wrinkles is easy. It cannot always be said that they are faults. This is a matter of taste, and a rather wide made garment can nevertheless be "chic". The better clientage and the tailors serving them know this very well.

It is more difficult to correct cross wrinkles, and one has to be very careful when doing away with those of a "too much." Many an expert has and will be deceived by altering in too large a degree. As a natural consequence the fault will show at an opposite place.

The worst faults are bias wrinkles. The cause is mostly an incorrect proportion of the front and back length. I will explain this in later chapters.

It is extraordinarily important for a careful tailor to judge those faults correctly which result through tightness. These are not evident, but are the cause of faults which nearly always show as superfluous width at an opposite place.

Usually these faults originate by clumsy altering after the trying on, and can only be removed if outlet is there and the same is not scorched. The best way will be to rip open the part which is uncomfortable and too tight (padding and lining also), and then to look up the cause.

All alterations must be done in such a way that the collar, lapels and the neck hole remain untouched. It is a well known fact that alterations of collar, lapels and neck hole nearly always spoil the shape, and the looks of the entire garment will be spoiled. This damage can very seldom be made good.

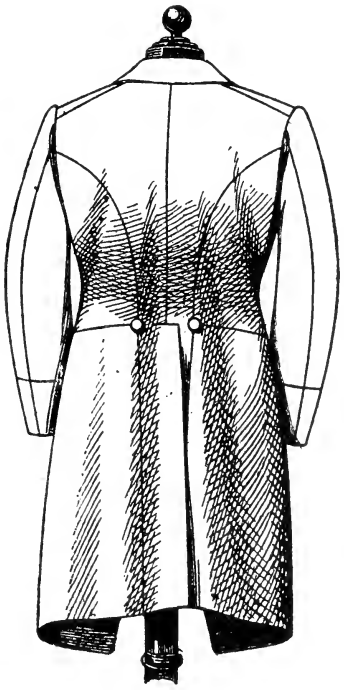
I will endeavor to show by the following illustrations that it is very important that alterations should be made wherever possible without touching the collar. Of course, there are cases where the trouble is due to a faulty collar itself.

After this introduction I will discuss several cases, which will be illustrated on skirt coats, coat and overcoat in a buttoned condition, which always show the faults most plainly.

Coats and Overcoats

I. Back Shoulder Too Short.

Figures 9 and 10 show these faults very plainly. Figure 9 shows the coat unbuttoned. The collar fits well, but the front parts separate and drop to the back. The coat, from the back



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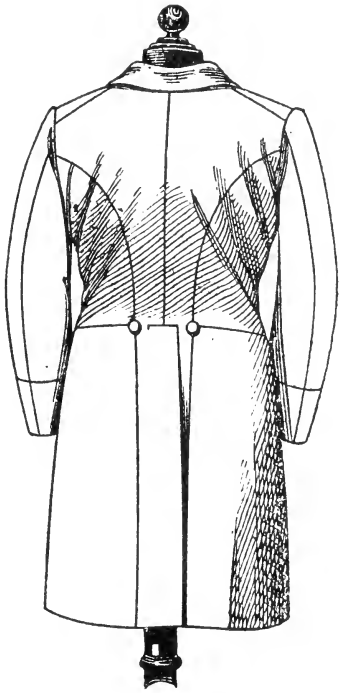
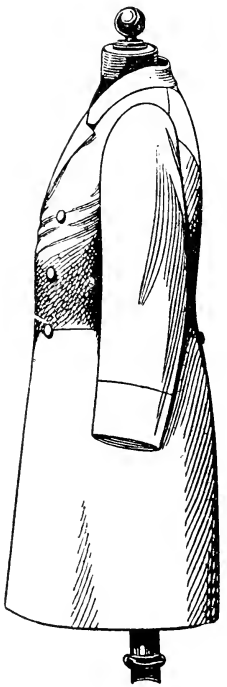


10.

shoulder down, stands off the body and the skirt laps over. The coat, so to say, does not fit close to the waist.

When the coat is buttoned, the collar is loose around the neck and it shows wrinkles up from the side of the waist to the shoulders. (See Fig. 10.) If the coat is pulled down in order to remove wrinkles, the collar will come too low, and the back part will be too short in the neck and too long at the bottom. Consequently the coat will be all right in the waist but the skirts

will drop apart. In front the coat moves up and stands away from the neck and the skirts cross too much in front. Very often the coat is too tight across the breast. (See Fig. 11.)



11.

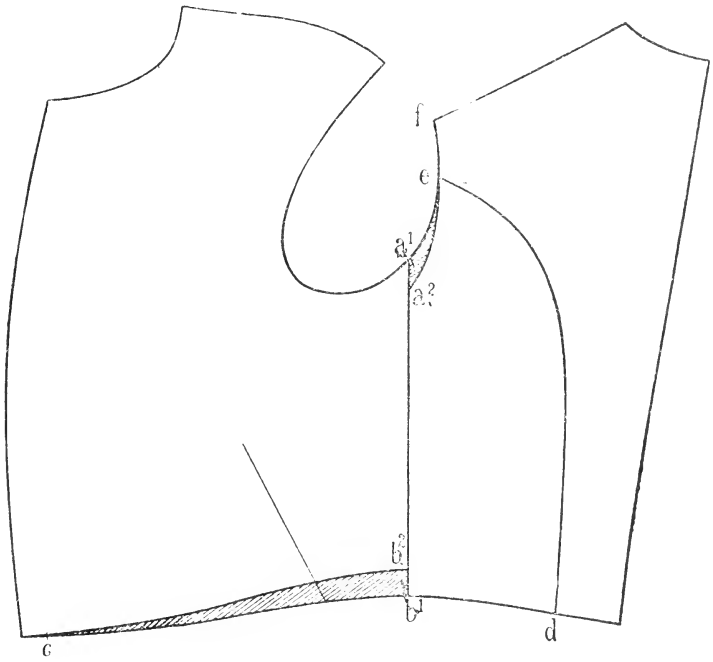
These are the evident faults, but the invisible faults are there, too. The garment is uncomfortable, which only the wearer will notice. It pinches in front of the armhole and shoulder because the front part will be drawn down through the back part, and consequently lays too tight on shoulder and arm. If one supposed the necessary outlet is there and moved up the collar as much as required, about one inch; let out the outlet on the skirt and took off the unnecessary goods in the front, apparently the fault would be remedied. The garment, however, would not look very good and remain uncomfortable. It will lose in looks, not only by the waist seam being too high in front and too low in the back (skirt garments, etc.), but the figure will also have a sloping shoulder effect, because the shoulder seam will come too much to the back and the back part will be narrower at the neck, by setting the collar higher about 1¼ to 1½ inches.

Despite this alteration the pressure at the armhole and at the shoulder will not disappear.

If one will remedy this by cutting out the armhole in front, the garment will be too wide in the back—on the blade—and the fullness will have to be taken in. By doing this the coat will be too small, mostly across the breast, and the garment would be half spoiled. The altering will not only cause much work, because the collar has to be ripped off and made shorter, but the looks of the lapels will be spoiled, too.

If one supposed that by putting the collar higher the back neck increases so considerably, every good tailor should ask himself the question: "Is it possible that I made such a mistake

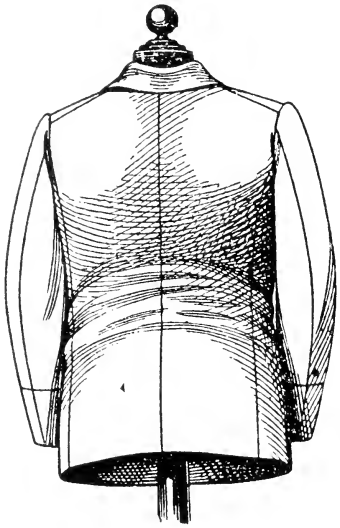
when taking the measure of the customer that the length of the waist is one inch too short?" By being a little thoughtful he would know that the alteration, which I just described, cannot be right. Should the fault be due to the fact that the upper back part is a trifle too short, that does not prove that the length of the back is too short.



12.

The length is correct, one can see that, because the faulty coat shows what is missing at the top is too long at the bottom. That means that the length of the back is not distributed in the right dimensions; above the breast line not enough; below the breast line too much. This mistake happens often because the cutter was not careful enough and omitted to mark the notches in front, side and back parts. In consequence of this, the parts are not in their right place. I illustrated this in Figure 2, in the first part of this book—The Cutting. This fault can be altered in the following way: Turn to Figure 12. Rip open the

skirt seam from (d) to (c), also the seam under the arm from (a1) to (b1) and the armhole seam from a little before (a1) to (f). The side part has to be moved upward as much as the collar is too low when the coat is pulled down smooth. In this case it is one inch, so that the marks (a2) and (b1) of the side body close to (a1) and (b2) of the front part will come together. After sewing together front and side part, the armhole will be equalized by taking off the uneven cloth on the side part or, if by doing this the armhole will be cut out too much, letting out the outlet in the front part. In the waist line, as a rule, only the front part has to be altered by taking away the protruding part from (b2) to (c). Should, by doing this, the skirt seam become too hollow and sag in a bad looking way, a part of the outlet below (b1) must be let out, about half of the part moved up and the front part near (b-2) must be shortened only as much as is necessary. Should the skirt still be too wide in the back, the change will have to be made in the pleat.



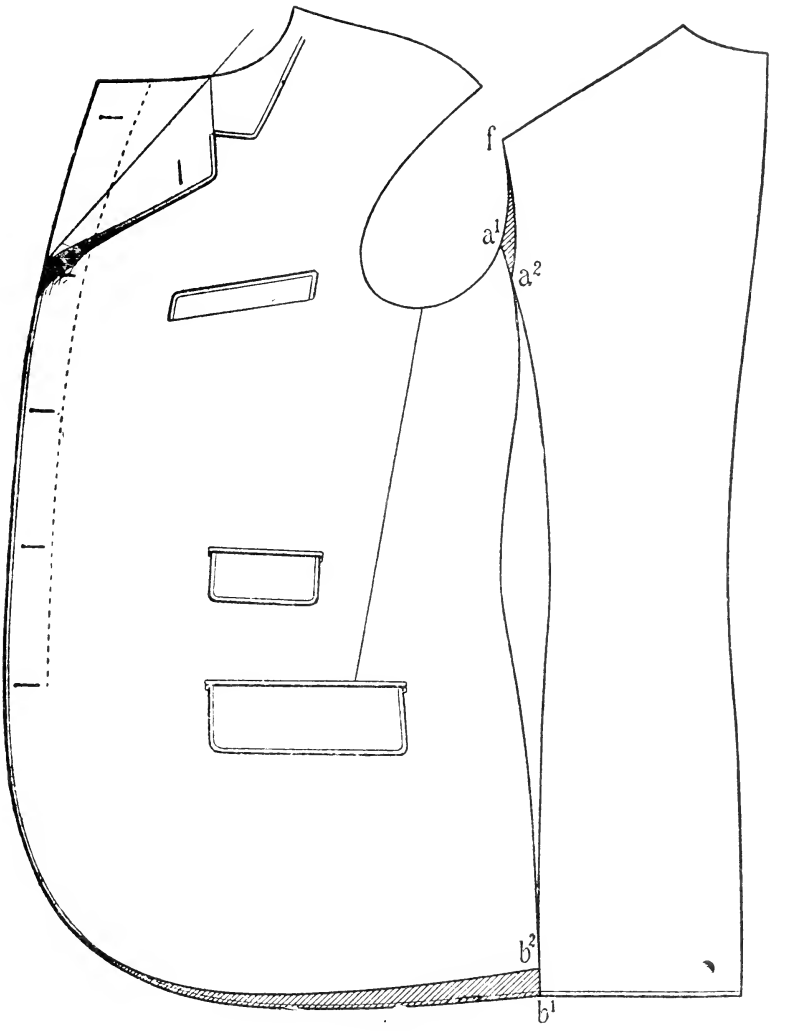
13.

By moving up the side part the armhole will be larger and outlet on under arm must be let out in order to enlarge the sleeve. Only in a few cases will one have to take off on the blade. It is understood that the lining and padding must be taken care of at the same time. I mention this, although every tailor will know this.

It is easy to remedy this, using this simple alteration, which can be done in a short time and without any danger. Coats and overcoats, when open, show the same faults as coats with a skirt. But if those are fully buttoned and pulled down in the back, to avoid the sloping wrinkles, the faults will show in a different way. The collar also is too low in the back, but inasmuch as the coat is not open on the bottom, the back part cannot move down,

is tight across the seat and shows horizontal wrinkles in the waist (see Fig. 13).

On an overcoat it will show in a different way. The vent will



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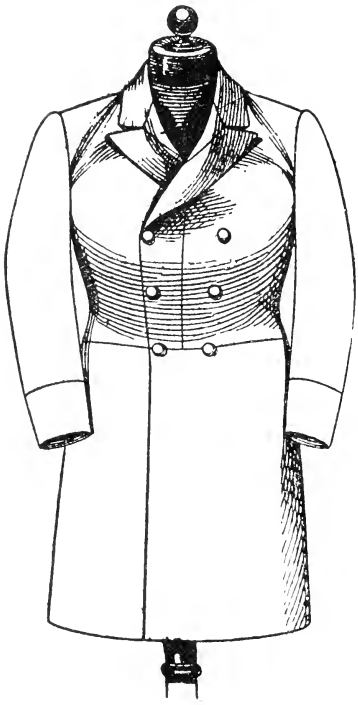
spread and the cross wrinkles will disappear to a certain degree.

The alteration has to be made in the same way as the coat mentioned before, but the moving up of the back part must be done in the side seam (see Fig. 14). In case there is enough

turnup on the edge of the back part, this turnup must be let out, which would always be better than to shorten the front part across the bottom.



15.

II. Front Shoulders Too Long.

The effect of this is, when the coat is unbuttoned (see Fig. 9), the same as with a too short back shoulder. Here the buttoned coat shows another figure, because the front shoulder is proportionately too long. It will fit all right in the back, but the front edge will show up longer, only showing on the breast and lapel. The collar will fit close and be high enough (see Fig. 15).

To define exactly how much the front shoulder is too long, make a pleat across the breast from one armhole to the other, which will define the degree of the alteration. According to the width of the pleat, the alteration has to be done in the same way as demonstrated in the preceding part on Figure 12.

In this case the back part is not moved up, only the front is moved down, so the protruding part at the side of the armhole must not be taken away. However, the outlet in the front part of the armhole at (a1) must be let out, in order to give the armhole a good form. Regarding the other alterations, on the waist line, skirt, sleeve, etc., see description in Part I.

If after this alteration the skirt seam should be too low in front, this would not matter much, only the unnecessary front length at the bottom of the skirt will have to be taken away towards the back. This is because the front part cannot be shortened in the waist, as the distance of the button holes would be uneven.

If after this alteration it should develop that the armhole is

too low, things will be more critical. If the cloth permits piecing, without being noticed, the fault will be easily remedied. But if one is not able to do this, then the front shoulder must be shortened straight across, as much as necessary. Certainly the alteration in the back seam of the side body and in the waist seam must be omitted. An alteration of this kind will require more work, because collar and sleeve have to be removed. If the lapel shall retain its style, other alterations must be made. The neck hole must be made deeper, the lapels shortened, and the collar must conform with the new neck hole. All this is only possible if the lapel button hole is not too close to the gorge, otherwise the lapel must remain unchanged.

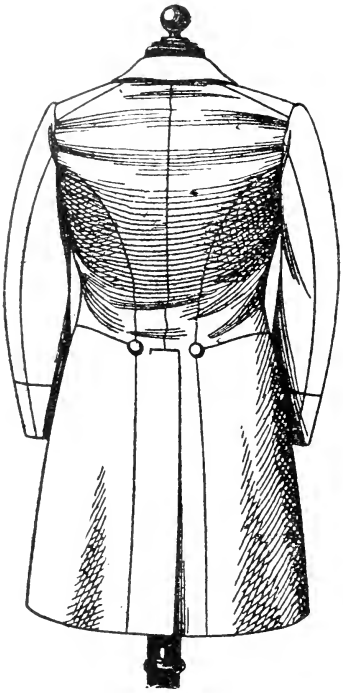
One can also make the alteration so that the front part will only be half lowered and the surplus goods will be taken away from the top of the shoulder, although this will be a more difficult alteration than by only shortening the front shoulder. Such a complicated change will only be recommended when through this the piecing under the armhole can be omitted and the lapels will remain as before.

Coats and overcoats will show the same fault and should be altered as in Figure 14. The back part remains unchanged, but the outlet in the armhole of the front part at (a1) must be let out. The surplus length in the front part below must be evenly taken away up to the front edge, if the location of the pockets permit this; otherwise it is more advantageous to let out the turnup across at the bottom of the back part.

III. Back Shoulder Too Long.

The following two cases are the opposite of the previously described. The faults of a back shoulder too long will show on Figure 16. The whole back seems too full, almost puffed up. The coat fits good at the collar and at the waist line, but here often so tight that cross wrinkles form from the waist buttons upward to the armhole. The coat spreads apart. However, the coat fits well in front, but often as a continuance of the cross wrinkles, a small wrinkle before the armhole will be noticed and a slight pressure will result in front of the armhole.

Very often the puffed back will be misjudged and what is too much in length will be taken as too much in width, because the side and shoulder seams hang away from the body. If the side part is taken in, extending to the waist button and the shoulder from the armhole to the neck hole, then the alteration is made in the wrong place. Through this wrong alteration the diameter of the armhole has become too small, the wrinkle will be enlarged, and the pressure at the front part of the armhole will be greater.



16.

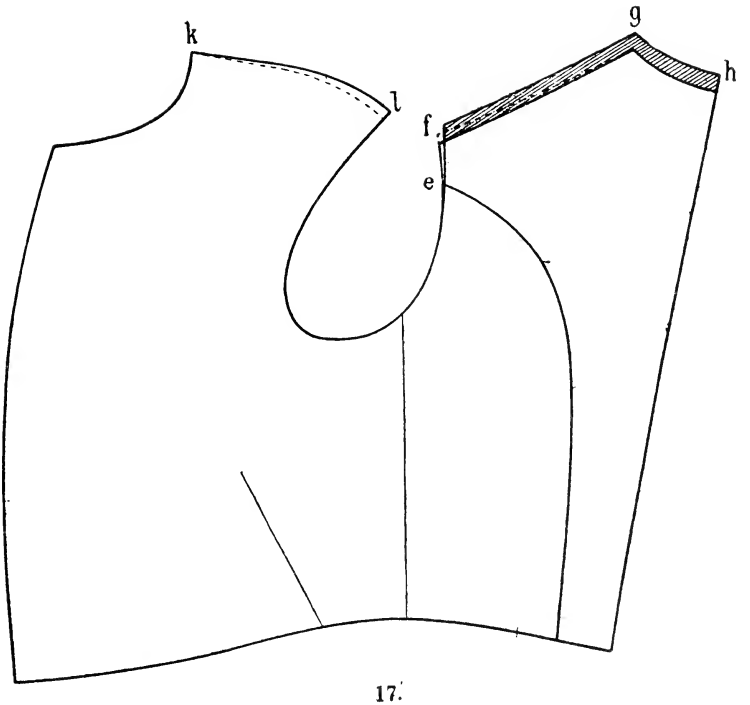
As a rule, to remedy this the armhole will have to be cleared out in front and cut deeper. Consequently the breast will be too narrow and the coat too tight at the breast measure. In most cases this cannot be remedied any more successfully. This can only be changed if the back part is shortened.

The best way to make sure is to fold a pleat across the back from one armhole to the other, as wide as necessary to get the right position of the coat. After pinning the pleat one can see how much is necessary to shorten the back part.

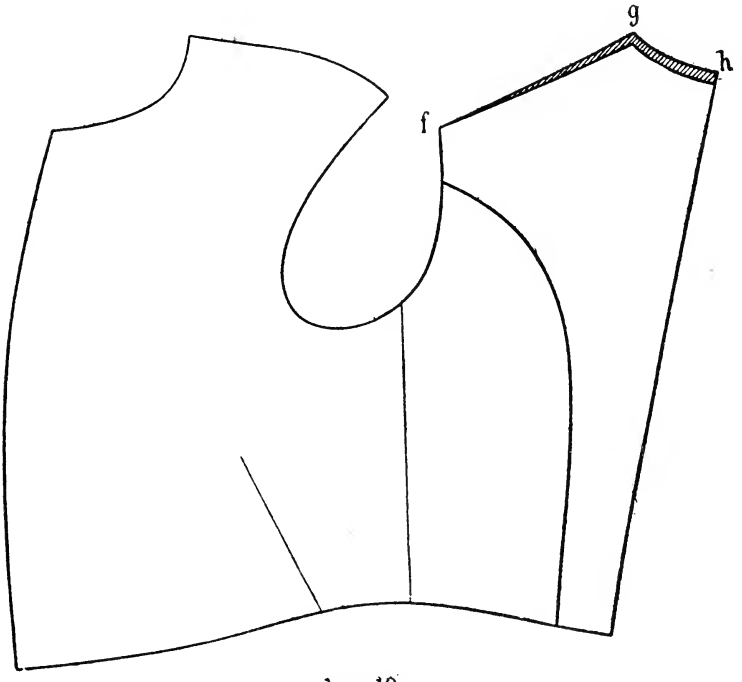
Figure 17 shows plainly how to do away with this fault without much work.

The alteration has to be made in the neck hole and on the shoulder. After the seams (e, f, g, h) are ripped, the back part in the neck hole and at the shoulder has to be cut down comparing with the pleat. In order that the back and the shoulder will retain their original width, the back must not become smaller, otherwise the front shoulder at the armhole would also have to be made smaller. As much as necessary of the outlet of the back must be let out in the armhole.

Here will show for the first time the advantage of this pre-

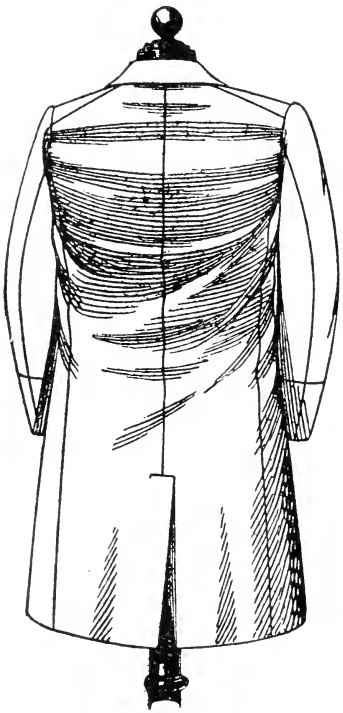


17.



18.

caution. If through this alteration the back part looks too small at the armhole, the part which has to be removed must be taken away one-half in the back part and the other half at the



19.

20.

front part shoulder, extending to the neck hole (see the marked lines in Figure 17).

If one wants the width of the back on the armhole to remain as wide as before, everything in the front must be taken away. In each case the back part in the neck must stay as wide as before.

A similar fault, occurring very often on square-shouldered persons, will be mentioned here at the same time.

There are little cross wrinkles close below the collar from one shoulder to the other. See Figure 18 for this alteration. Inasmuch as the surplus length will only be noticed above the middle

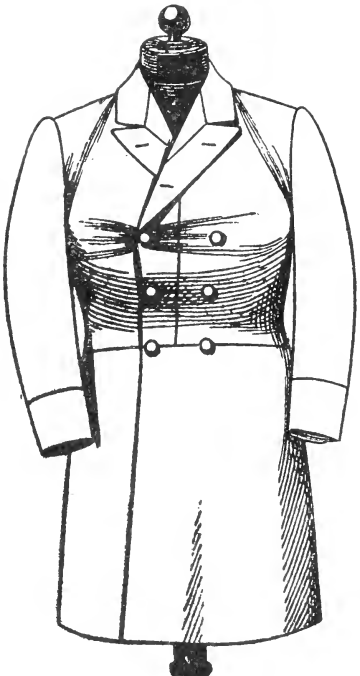
of the back, the back shoulder should not be made shorter, but only the back neck extending to the armhole should be shortened comparing with the wrinkles. Also the back part in the neck hole must remain as wide as it was before. If the back part of a coat and overcoat is too long, cross wrinkles will show at the middle of the waist; also by sloping wrinkles from the armhole to the waist. The coat will also be too tight across the seat. The long overcoat will pinch below the seat in the knee and the vent will part. The front parts will come too much to the front; the lower part of the skirts stand off too far from the knees and show too much flare in the front. (See Figures 19 and 20.)

The change will also have to be made as with coat illustrated in Figures 17 and 18.

IV. Front Shoulders Too Short.

These faults are very evident in Figure 21.

On the front parts very ugly sloping wrinkles show from neck hole to armhole. This presses in front and underneath the armhole. The coat is too tight across the breast, although it has the right width, because the width advances in a wrinkle to the armhole, and it will show too loose in the waist line. The skirts also cross each other too much. Also in most cases the waist seam in front is too high. The back view is the same as in Figure 16.

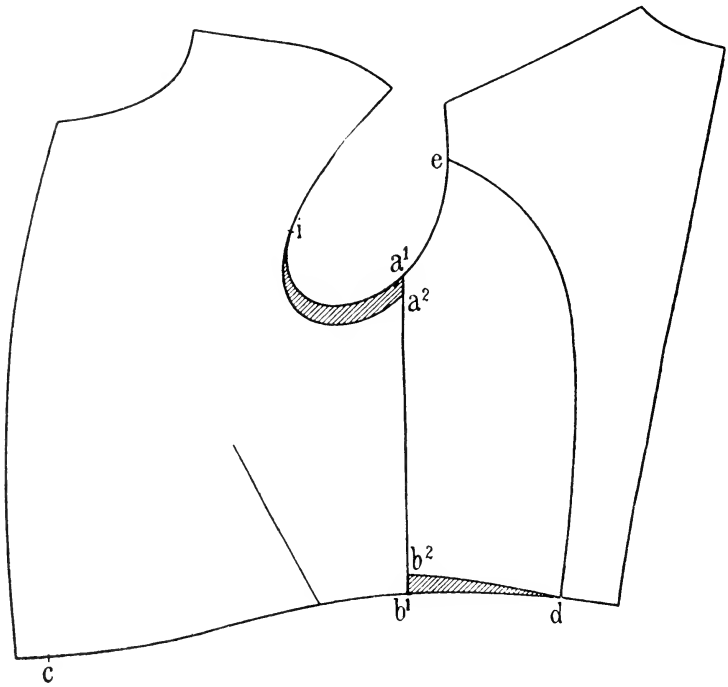


21.

Before one starts altering on that kind of a coat, it is advisable to make a thorough examination to find out if the collar is set on too short, because this also will cause the described fault; only in this case the shoulder is also too long in the armhole. If the coat fits tight there then it is a sure sign that the front shoulder is too short throughout. If one will pin a

pleat, as is done for a back part which is too long, one will see exactly how much the front shoulder must be lengthened.

The proper way would be to let out the outlet in the shoulder,



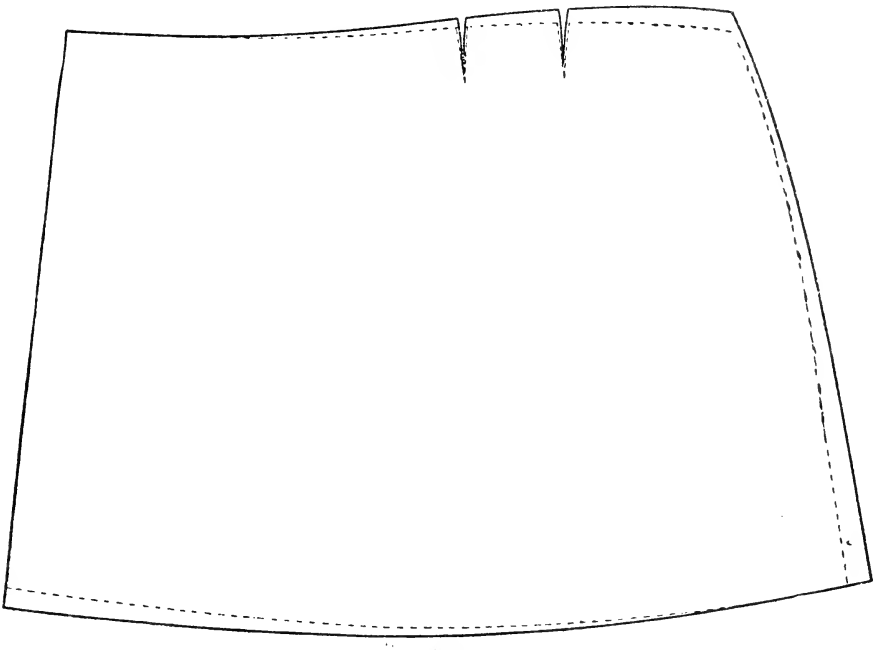
22

but in this case a new and longer collar would have to be made.

In many cases there is not enough goods for a new top collar and therefore a new and simple way has to be found to fix up the coat, as follows: Rip the under arm seam (a1, b1) the skirt seam from (c) to (d) and the armhole seam from (i) across (a1) to (e) (see Figure 22), and move up the front part as much as necessary, meeting (b1) with (b2, a2) with (a1). All there remains to be done is to cut out or to deepen the armhole and eventually to enlarge the sleeve.

In the skirt seam leave out the outlet in the front part, extending from (b1) to (c). If there is no outlet on hand, one is compelled to take the protruding part off the side to (d). See the marked part in figure.

This will often cause another fault, namely, the skirt will flap apart and show too much flare on the side. Figure 23 shows this alteration with punctured lines.



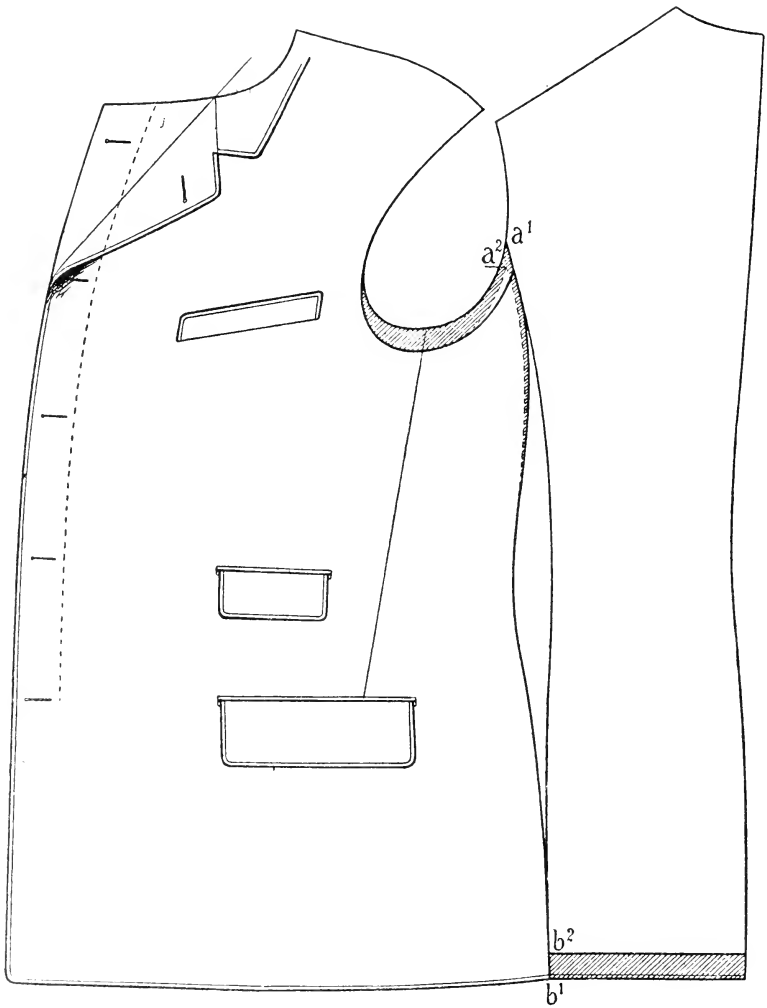
23.

But first convince yourself if this alteration is really necessary. An alteration is not necessary unless the coat showed too much skirt in the pleat before alteration.

A coat or an overcoat with too short a front shoulder shows ugly cross wrinkles in front; is too tight across the breast; pinches in the armhole and is too loose at the bottom. The overcoat will flare in front like in Figure 20. The back view is like in Figure 19.

A pleat across the back will show how much altering has to be done. Move the front part in the side seam upward the same amount, so that the marks (a2) and (a1) and (b1) and (b2) correspond with each other. The front part of the blade, which will become deeper through this alteration, must be vertically below the original, which will make it necessary to take in the

same at the side seam of the front part. Otherwise the garment will be too wide in this place. The back part must be shortened below, whatever is necessary. This very simple altering is shown in Figure 24.



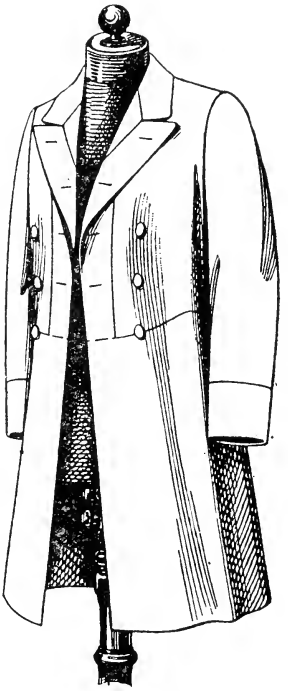
24.

V. Front Part Sagging Back On Account of Not Enough Height of the Shoulder.

Figure 25 shows a very faulty coat. If the coat is unbut-

toned the collar fits closely, but the parts in front sag back very noticeably.

This sagging back is not caused on account of the back part being too short, as the coat fits close in the back. That means the length in the back corresponds with the length in front. Consequently the sagging back does not show in the back, but flares are formed, beginning at the armhole and increasing farther down. These flares would show farther in the back under the arm, if the arms would not prevent this. But if the coat is buttoned, the collar stands off around the neck. Such a garment can be spoiled entirely if it is altered as its appearance indicates. Many will be of the opinion that this fault can be remedied in the most simple and easiest way by shortening the strap as much as it seems to be necessary, and shortening the collar. This alteration is not only entirely wrong, but also very dangerous, as by doing this the entire garment can be spoiled.

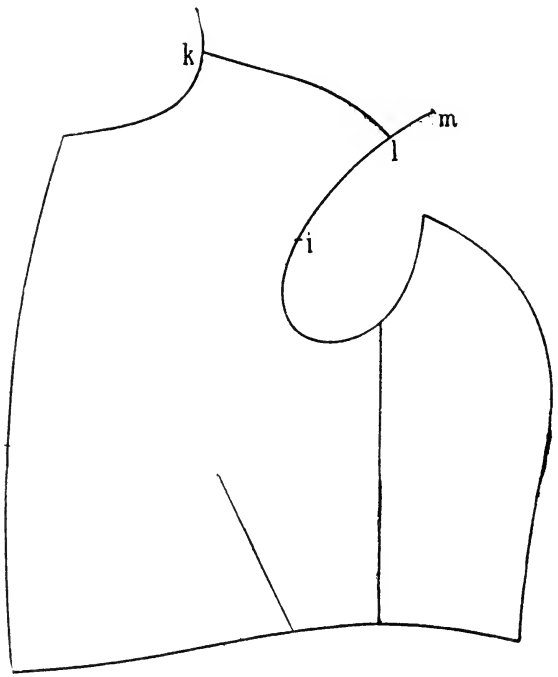


25.

The cause of this misfit will have to be located somewhere else where it cannot easily be detected, because the coat fits smoothly at the armhole at the front shoulder. This is caused by being too anxious to have the coat fit well on the shoulder when trying on, and was due to too much taking in of the shoulder at the armhole. Every tailor can convince himself of the correctness of this illustration by doing as follows: Rip open the shoulder seams, Figure 26 (l-k) (without taking off the collar), and the sleeve (m-i) (also the padding and the lining). By this the upward part of the arm will be open and free.

If the coat is then fitted again, one will see that the shoulder seam opens at the armhole to the same extent as the shoulder was taken in too much. If the sleeve now has the exact width

at the sleeve head and is loose enough, which is usually the case, one will see that the outlet on the shoulder seam (Figure 27, ll-k) must be let out again. Notice, also, that now the coat does



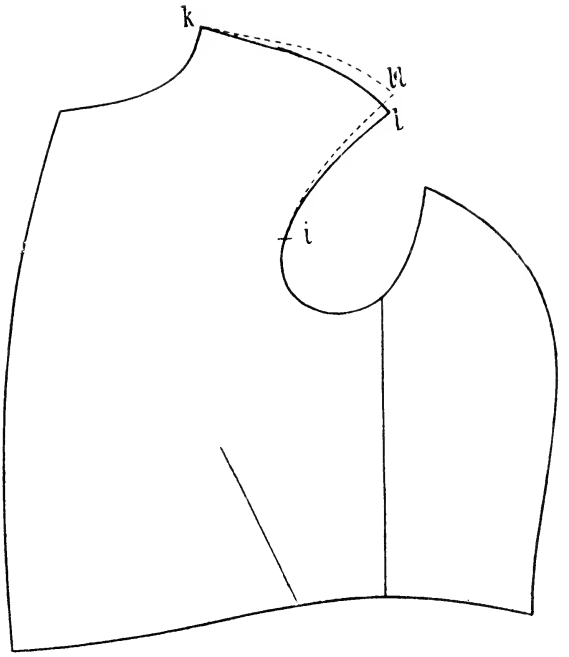
26.

not sag back, and that the collar fits closely when the coat is buttoned.

Through this very simple altering the fault will be remedied with little work and without any danger. Figure 28 will show how, by too much taking in of the shoulder seam at the armhole, the whole front part came out of its right place and had to sag back. Apparently the coat got too wide at the side seam and did not hug the waist.

This is not the case, on the body, as mentioned before. The position of the back part is right, remains in its place and prevents the sagging back of the front part through the arms.

Very often this fault is caused by padding the shoulder point



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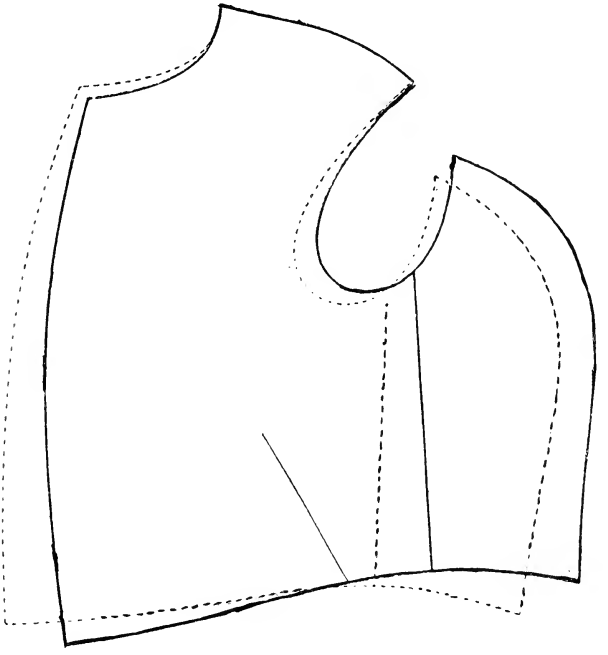
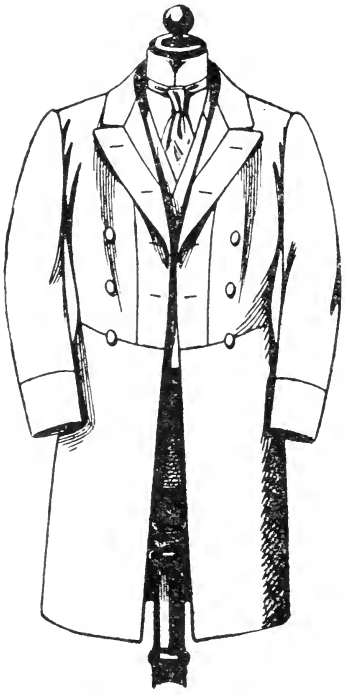


28.

too much. Should, however, the shoulder become unnaturally high, it is advisable to remove the superfluous padding. This refers also to coats and overcoats.

VI. Collar Stands Off and Coat Hangs Back in the Waist.



29.

I will now get to the fault which is brought on by unreasonable altering and fitting. The main cause of this is the desire to make the coat smooth and close fitting in the back.

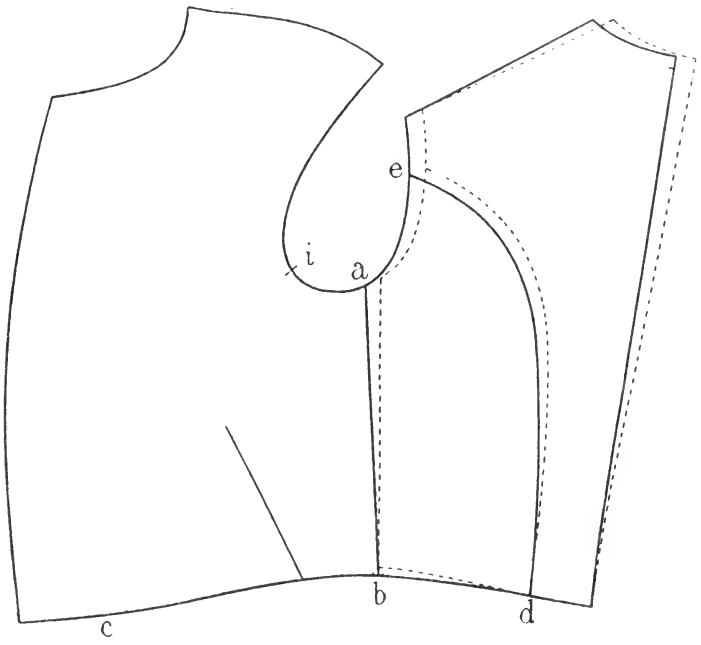
Figure 29 shows that when the coat is open, the collar will stand off around the neck, drawing the front parts backwards. Through this, ugly wrinkles form lengthwise at the breast and in front of the armhole, which pinches and feels uncomfortable. Across the back the coat looks stretched and stands off in the waist. If buttoned, which can scarcely be accomplished because the width of the breast was drawn back to the armhole in a wrinkle, the whole front part moves upwards; consequently the lapels show too long; the collar will be drawn down still further in the back and the entire garment looks as if the back part is too short.

All these irregularities are caused by too much taking in of the side seam. Through this the blade measure becomes too short, the diameter of the armhole too small, and the front parts with the collar are drawn to the back. This causes the wrinkles in front and the pressure in the armholes, resulting in a misfit coat. The back part has become too short by too much taking in.

A cutter who will not examine this thoroughly might have a hard time and make wrong alterations. If one would try to remedy this by cutting out the armhole in front at the pinching part, remove the width in the waist by taking it in and set the

collar higher, the result would be a too narrow breast and the whole coat being too tight. The coat would be a total misfit.

This can easily be altered if the front part has enough outlet



30.

in the underarm seam. Rip out the sleeve from (i) to (e) and the seams (a-b-d), also loosen the padding and the lining, so it will give you more space to work on. If the customer puts on the coat again one will see that the outlet of the front part must be let out below the arm, extending to the waist seam. The whole back part and the collar draws up towards the neck; the ugly wrinkles on the breast and before the armhole disappear, and the garment will become comfortable and does not pinch any more. It shall be emphasized that the back part, too, will move a little higher, more than half of the widened part in the upper part of the armhole. It can only be determined when fitting, if the outlet below in the side part must be let out, extending to (d), or if the front part must be shortened in the waist seam from (b) to (c).

If there is no outlet at the front part in the underarm seam, there is nothing else to be done but to put in a new side part.

The position of the side and back part discussed before will show in Figure 30 with marked lines. As in most cases, the under sleeve is held in and the necessary widening can be easily accomplished; but if there is not enough width, then the outlet on the front seam of the under sleeve must be let out as much as necessary. If such is not there, it will be necessary to piece the under sleeve.

This alteration can be done in a short time and has the advantage that the front part remains untouched.

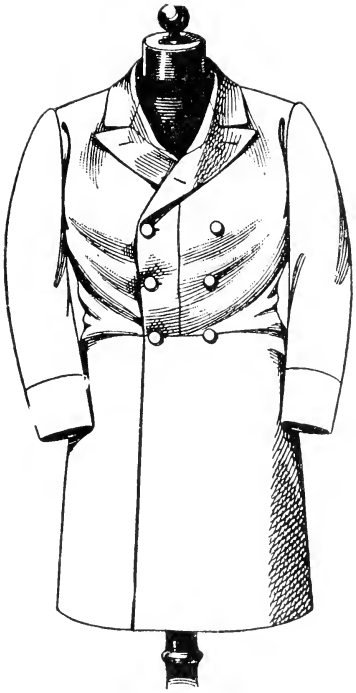
I will mention here, especially, that in many cases the cause of a fault will be in another place than in the place where it seems to be. This could often be determined easily if one could imagine the smooth place ripped. If one has decided, that by opening of the seams in question the fault can be remedied, it will pay to try it, and one will see often that on the most smooth looking part the garment is too tight, because the seam will open a trifle and it will be seen that the outlet, if any, must be let out.

This will put the separate pieces of the garment in the right place, through which the faulty coat can be brought in shape without altering in the place where the fault seems to be, an alteration which is very tedious and doubtful.

What is said before refers also to coats and overcoats.

VII. Insufficient Abdomen.

Figure 31 shows a common fault. When the coat is buttoned, wrinkles will develop from the armhole to the stomach, which by movements will draw upward; the breast will be too wide; the lapels and collar will be too long; and the collar will lay too deep in the back. If the coat is opened at the lower button, until the wrinkles disappear, so that it fits closely in the neck and on the breast, it will droop back at the bottom and stand off the body in the side, even if the right width of the waist is there. But if it is too tight in the waist, it will also be too smooth in the sides.



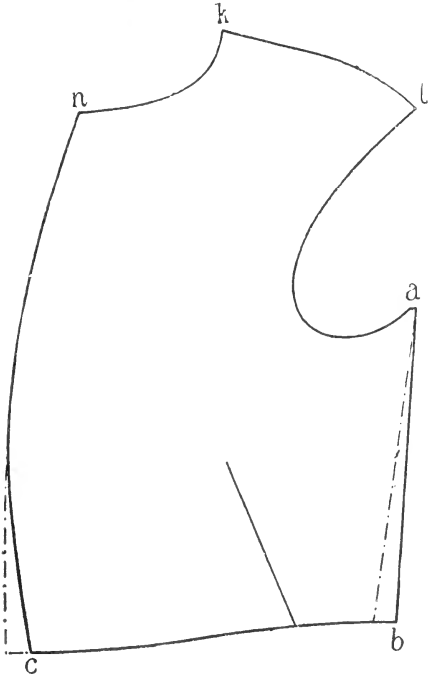
31.

These signs will show that the coat has not enough goods in front of the abdomen.

The following illustration will show how to remedy this.

If sufficient outlet is there, the proper change can be made when trying on, providing the front edging is not yet finished and buttonholes not made.

For this purpose cut a new coat model out of the original and add to it the missing part in the abdomen; that means half as



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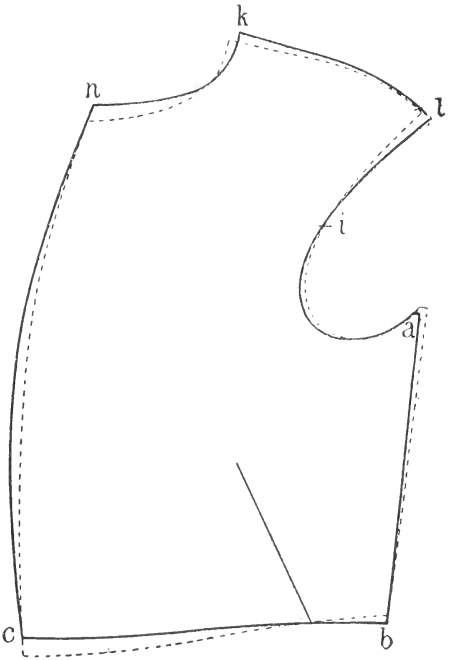

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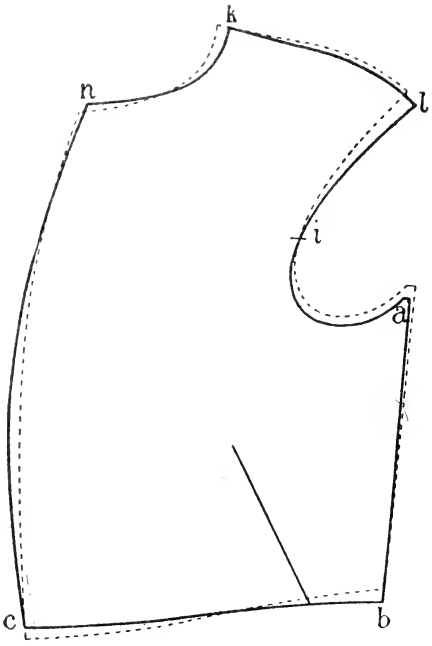

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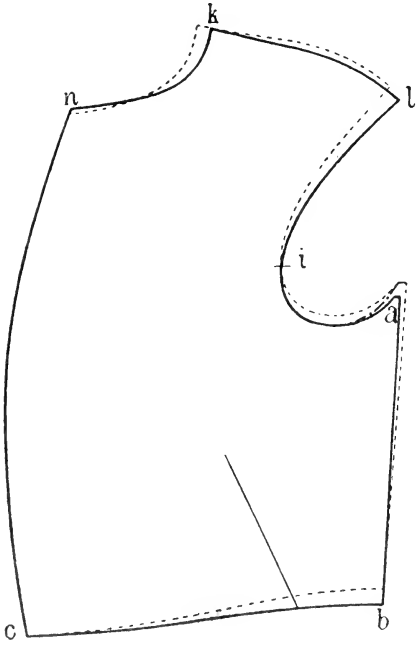


35.

much as the parts drop apart when the lower buttons are opened. Also take off as much on the side, providing that the garment has the right width in the waist without the front addition.

But if too tight in the waist, less must be taken away in the side. See Figure 32 —.—.—.—. lines. Then place, as in Figure 33, which is now in right position and which is here marked with broken lines, at the original, which is marked in full lines, and you will see where and how much altering has to be done at the certain points. The neck point (k) must be placed more to the front, the shoulder extending to the armhole must be shortened and made smaller in the armhole at (l). The neck hole at (n) will be deeper and in order to regain the right front length the outlet in the waist at (c) must be let out, but at (b) as much must be taken away as was added at the armhole at (a) on top. What is lost at the edge of the breast must be replaced, extending from (a) to (b). The armhole in front and below remains unchanged. Then the trifle,

about a quarter of an inch, which is cut out, need not be considered.

In this way the front part will be righted without much work and the necessary abdomen will be produced.

The change will be more difficult if the coat is finished. The fault can be remedied, but the work will be more difficult and require more time. The coat has to be ripped almost entirely apart if front part has to be turned in order to get more abdomen.

The alteration cannot be made, as illustrated before, and not quite as correct, because nothing on the front edge can be taken away on account of the button holes. In the waist seam nothing can be let out.

To find out how to alter the front part, one should use the original and the altered model, but place them on top of each other like Figure 34 shows.

In this way at (k) on the shoulder nothing will be wasted and at the front waist at (c) only little would have to be let out.

For certain previously mentioned reasons the breast edge on the front part at the waist seam must remain untouched; the altering may only take place in the neck hole, on the shoulder and in the armhole, on the side and in the back part of the waist line seam, like Figure 35, with broken lines showing.

The front part, by turning it in this way, becomes somewhat smaller in the neck hole at (n), but extending upward and downward the same becomes a trifle wider. This does not matter much, as the lapels only become slimmer, but on the waistline resetting of the buttons will be necessary. It will not always be necessary to make the neck hole deeper. This is only possible, if the upper button hole is far enough from the gorge.

In case the coat should not have the sufficient length in front, which will happen very seldom, the skirt in the back has to be shortened, extending to the front.

The armhole is the most difficult part to change. One will see on Figs. 34 and 35 that it has to come higher, about ¼ inch. It has to be pieced from (i) to (a). This can easily be changed if the goods are suitable and the work done well, so that the customer does not notice it. Otherwise only the outlet in the back

of the armhole can be let out, as shown in Figure 35, with —.—.—. lines. The under sleeve will have to be cut out a little.

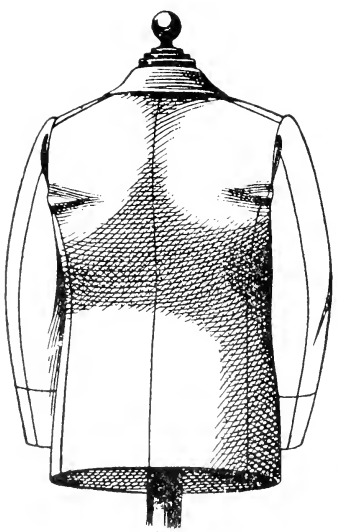
Should, however, the armhole become too deep, which only can happen if it was too low before, only entirely new front parts will save the coat.

Coats and overcoats show this fault very seldom. Should occasion arise, the front part will have to be turned the same as the coat. However, the alteration will only be successful if the surplus rounding on the front edge can be cut away, as otherwise the same would slope down. This is only possible when fitting, or on the ready made garments with fly fronts.

VIII. Cross Wrinkles in the Back, Starting at the Armhole.

It is a fact that small trifles cause much aggravation, but by studying them carefully it is very easy to change them.

Figures 36 and 37, showing cross wrinkles, which begin at



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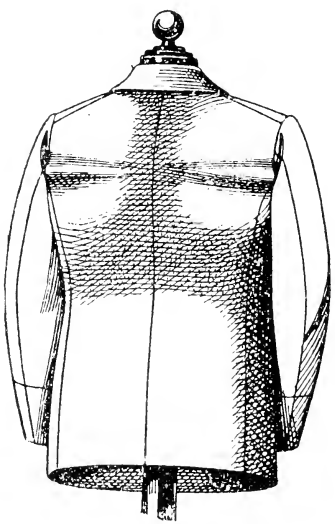


37.

the armhole up to the highest point on the shoulder or also running to the center of the back.

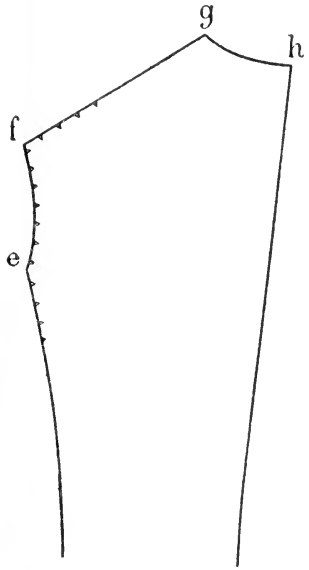
As a rule they only show on coats and overcoats, rarely or not at all on skirt coats—mostly on square-shouldered or persons with a round back.

A little explanation will be necessary to show the cause of this fault.

Square shoulders and a round back are heightenings on a human body. To give those bodies a good fitting garment, the workmanship must help along, the edges must be worked in more or less, either by cutting out the surplus goods, or by using (v), or if this is not possible, the parts must be worked in.

The rounding of the back now coming in question, there will be a necessary shortening mostly extending to the armhole. On skirt garments this will be accomplished by cutting, as the bent form of the side seams of the back part and the side part and the position of both to each other already produces the effect of a V at the armhole and besides the concerning part touches the most protruding part on the back shoulder, so that the forming produced in the garment corresponds with that on the body.

Things are different with coat and overcoat. In these the back part is cut considerably wider, and consequently the side seam is farther removed from the highest part. The side seams are also straighter, as on skirt coats. A shortening extending to the armhole can probably be accomplished, although by doing this the produced forming will not be in the right place; that means, not where it should be.



38.

To conform the two, the shaping of the back part is necessary, which will have to be enlarged the wider the same is cut, and it will be necessary in a higher degree by very protruding shoulder blades or a very round back.

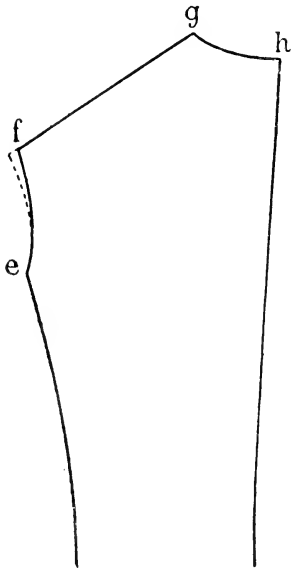
In shaping, the back part (Figure 38, marked points) must be worked in as much as necessary in each case. The developed width can be put in the right place by pressing it there.

Now the back part, mostly at the upper side seam, will be

held in well, but one must hold in same a little more in the armhole and in the lower part in the shoulder seam as on the skirt coat. Consequently the ready-made garment shows these illustrated faults. Now I will show the described faults. If the wrinkle is short, only extending to the highest part of the shoulder blade, then the fault will not cause much trouble. Rip out the armhole seam a little under the blade until a little over the shoulder seam, and same from below, about 1½ inches from the neck.

Then the back part in the lower half shoulder seam must be held in one-half to two-thirds of the width of the wrinkle; the balance in the armhole and the resulting width must be pressed in where the rounding on the back shows.

But in case such is very protruding and consequently the wrinkle very large, so that the same cannot be removed entirely by working in the two previously mentioned places and no close-fitting armhole can be reached, there is nothing else to be done than padding it a little more. It is recommended in this case, because the rounding will look smaller.



39.

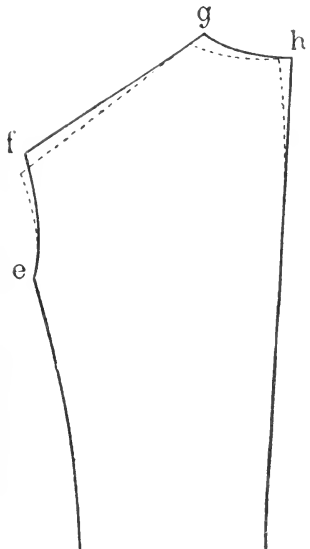
If the back part has outlet in the armhole it must be let out from the shoulder seam, running downward (Fig. 39) the marked line (e-f), so that the shoulder will not become too narrow. If there is no outlet, or the front part of the shoulder is very wide, the extending part can be taken away. Certainly the padding and the lining must be sewed in accordingly.

If a wrinkle ends in the middle of the back (Fig. 37), the change must be made in another way. Here the cause is a very round back.

Here the highest part is in the center of the back and therefore the back part in the center seam must be rounded. The form of the upper back part must be changed entirely.

If in such a case (when the garment is put on and before lining and padding are loosened) the back part (Fig. 39) from (e) to (f) and (g) to (h) is ripped and is held on to the body in such a way that the wrinkle at the armhole disappears, so it will by itself move up from the shoulder and will stand off in the neck hole and in the middle of the back, a fold will develop, beginning at the neck hole and extending to the highest part of the rounding.

This wrinkle has to be pinned down. Then lay the back part at the shoulder seam under the front part, in the neck hole under the collar, and also pin it down on these places. Now mark where and how much has to be taken off in the back part; also the part of the fold which has to be taken off in the center of the back. It is recommended to make cross marks on the shoulder, on the places and in what degree the back part has to be held in. The armhole seam will be regulated, as illustrated before. When the back part is marked and two seams are added, if the upper laying parts are marked rawedged, then it will be formed like Figure 40, broken lines.

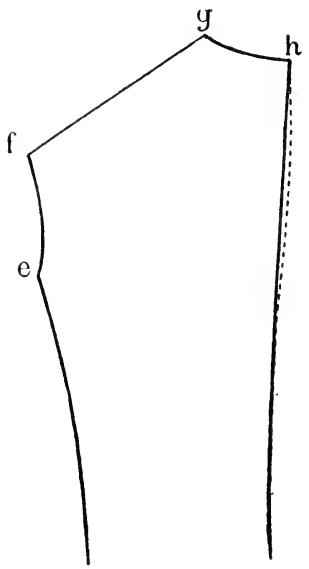


40.

In case the wrinkle at the armhole is not very large or the back part is too tight, so the fault can be remedied by letting out a little more in the center seam, the back extending up and down from the higher point, see the dotted line on Figure 41. By doing this the garment will fit closer at the armhole and will be more comfortable. If the back part is cut without center seam the wrinkle in the neck hole cannot be done away with by sewing. Figure 42, with broken lines, will show how the change has to be made.

The back part has to be cut away about one-half to two-thirds of the wrinkle (at the armhole) at (f); eventually it must be let out a little in the outlet at the armhole and through this formed rounding must be

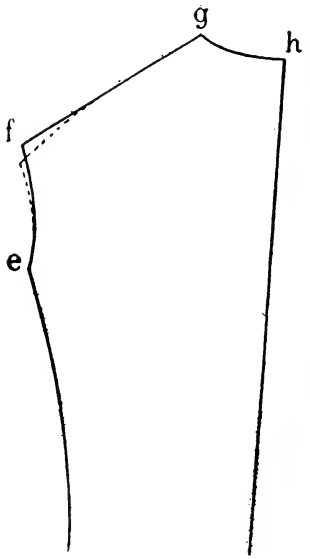
drawn in closely. The remaining is to be worked in at the armhole and the width caused on both places must be diverted to the center of the back.



41.

If it is not possible, in case the back is very rounded, to work in both places sufficiently to have a close fitting at the armhole, padding will remedy this.

Before altering in this way, it is advisable to examine thoroughly as to whether the fault in question has not another cause, because very often these wrinkles are caused by lining not properly sewed in.



42.

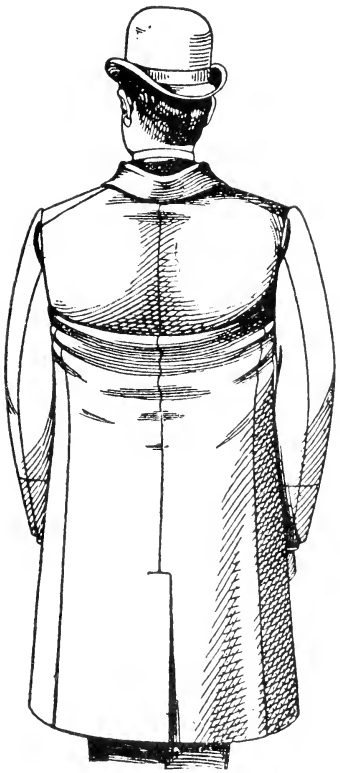
Therefore it is always advisable to loosen lining and padding, and after this to try on the garment. Then it can be judged surely how to alter this, and in many cases one will find that only the lining caused this fault. As previously said, both faults very seldom show on skirt garments, but if they ever should show, the change has to be made as illustrated.

IX. Overcoat Showing Too Flat and Too Narrow Armhole and Collar Not Close Fitting.

The preceding faults will show on coats and overcoats, but the following faults will only show on overcoats, on account of their peculiarity as top coats.

Many colleagues will have had the experience that an overcoat, when the customer tries it on, will not move up; that is, it will not fit close to the neck and will show a wrinkle across the

back, under the arms, towards the front armhole (Fig. 43). This will give the impression that the overcoat is too tight across the back. If drawn up by force, which will only be possible by pulling down the lower garment, it will be high enough, fit at the neck and fit good in general. But if the customer moves around for awhile the collar of the lower garment will show above.



43.

This fault is often misjudged and not correctly altered, if one attributes the fault to the overcoat.

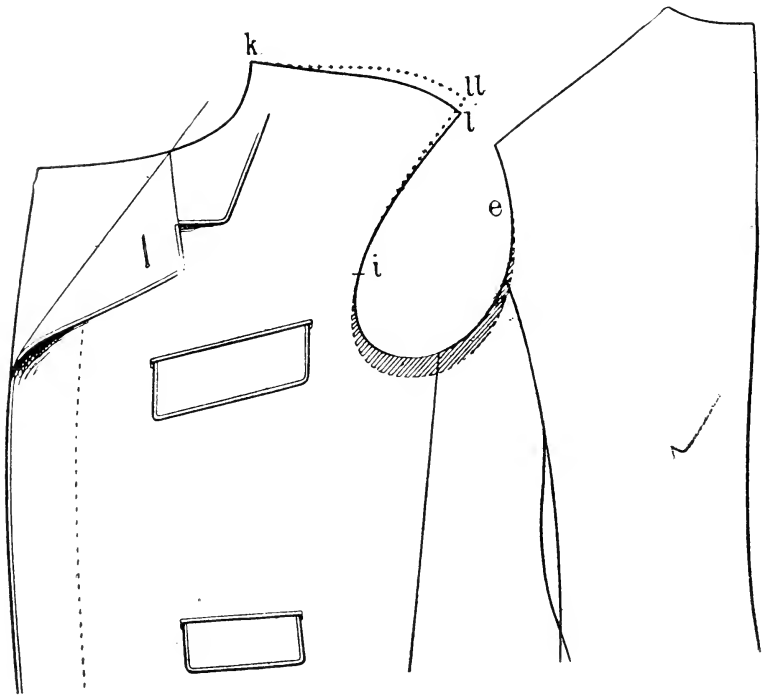
Despite the too deep laying collar, the back part is not too short, as proven by the cross wrinkle in the back. That it is not too narrow is proven by the fact that the overcoat has the right position in the waist and seat. This fault will show more when another garment is worn under the overcoat than while trying on.

If after this the overcoat will fit well in all parts, then this is a sure sign that the fault is not on the same, but on the coat underneath, because on the latter the armholes are too deep and cut out too much. When the overcoat is pulled up so far that it lays high enough in the neck, the armhole will come higher than that of the garment worn below. If the customer, when walking, will throw his arms back and forward the result will be that, inasmuch as the overcoat has the right deepness in the armhole, the coat will be pushed up above the collar of the overcoat until the armholes are evened up.

The right way would be to alter the garment under the overcoat, but as this would cause much more trouble, there will be nothing else left but to alter the overcoat by deepening the armholes accordingly (see Figs. 44 and 45, i-e).

This can be done by examining the wrinkle under the arm.

Across the back the same is often larger, but if one would deepen it accordingly the result would be that the armhole would be cut out deeper than actually necessary. This would have no bad consequences in regard to the fit of the overcoat.



44.

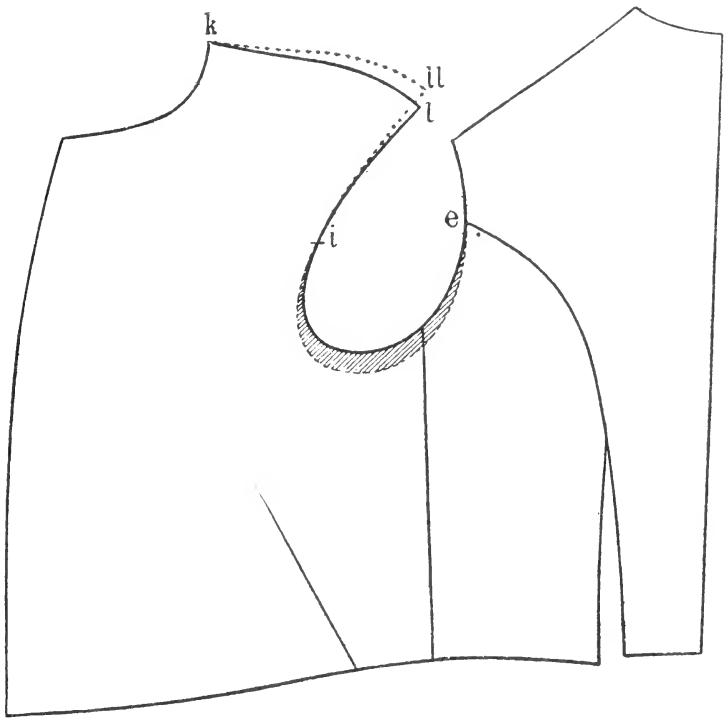
This will remedy the fault. The overcoat is easily put on and will at once go up high enough in the neck, and the collar will lay smoothly. The wrinkle will disappear.

The sleeve must be changed, too, by cutting out the under-sleeve corresponding to the armhole. If by this alteration the sleeve should become too short, the outlet at the bottom must be let out as much as necessary.

Now I will call your attention to a fault which is often in the overcoat itself. It is not necessary to use much padding on an overcoat, because the coat over which the overcoat is worn, as a rule, is already padded enough.

If the overcoat is very much padded, it will be too tight on

the shoulder and can be pulled up only with difficulty, even if the deepness in the armholes conforms. Then the collar will stand off around the neck, as if the same were too long. Under



45.

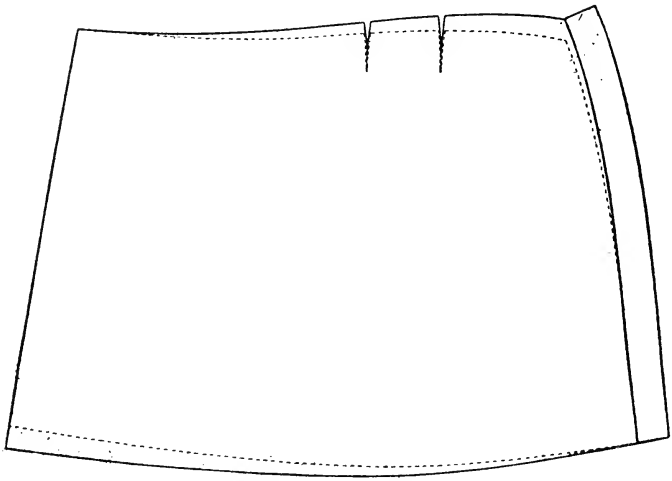
the collar seam small cross wrinkles will show. In this case, as shown with + + + + lines on Figures 44 and 45, the shoulder of the overcoat from (l) to (k) must be let out or the superfluous padding must be removed.

It is necessary to make both previously described alterations if both faults—the cross wrinkle and the standing off of the collar—show.

X. Faulty Skirt.

The necessary requirements for a modern, elegant skirt are: Correct aplomb, a good formed waist seam and a close fit over the hips and seat, without wrinkles.

This can only be expected if the skirt is drafted direct from the front and side part according to the waist line and by considering the width of the seat. To construct same by itself



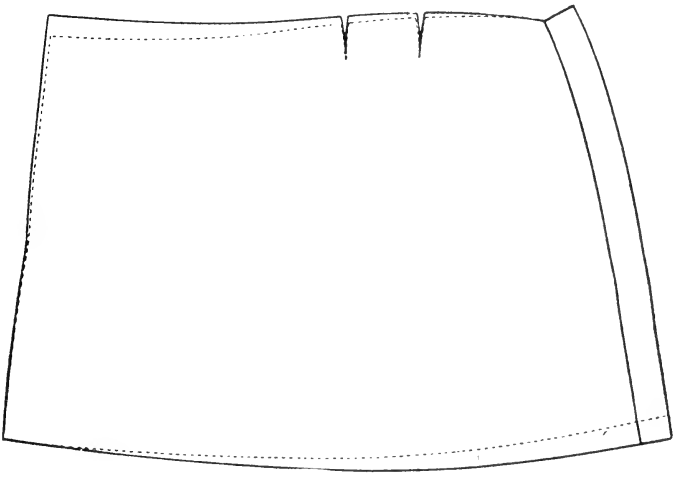
46

(that is without directly using those parts) is not only wrong, but very uncertain, because its waist line would very seldom conform with the front part. Faults will result, which, if not seen when trying on and altered, will always be difficult to change when the garment is ready. I will not describe how to draft the skirt. I will only show how frequent faults can be altered.

To demonstrate this I will use the double-breasted Prince Albert, because the same, when buttoned, will show the faults on the skirts most evidently. The changes are marked with broken lines on the figures.

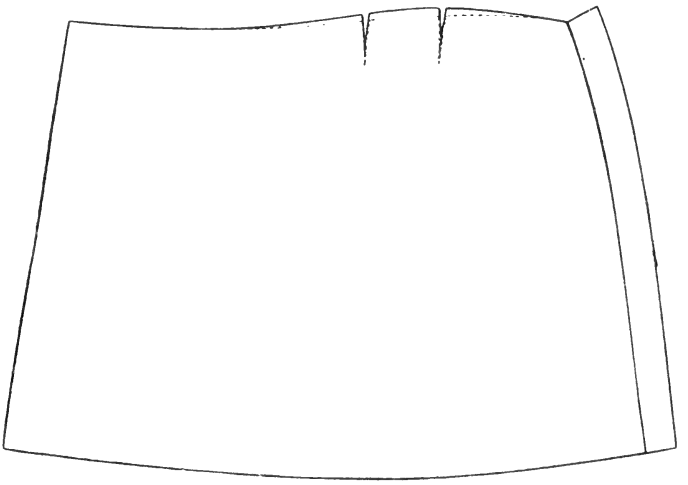
The faults most easily to correct are the lapping over and the separating of the skirt in the back part or on the front edge, granted that otherwise the same fit faultlessly. In the first case the surplus on the skirt pleat has to be taken away in the pleat or from the front edge. In case the skirt separates in front or in the back, the missing goods must be replaced by letting out the skirt pleats; that is, the front edge.

Very often one sees skirt coats showing both faults. They separate in the back, but in the front they lap over. Despite this the right width is there, as no tightness or ugly wrinkles appear.



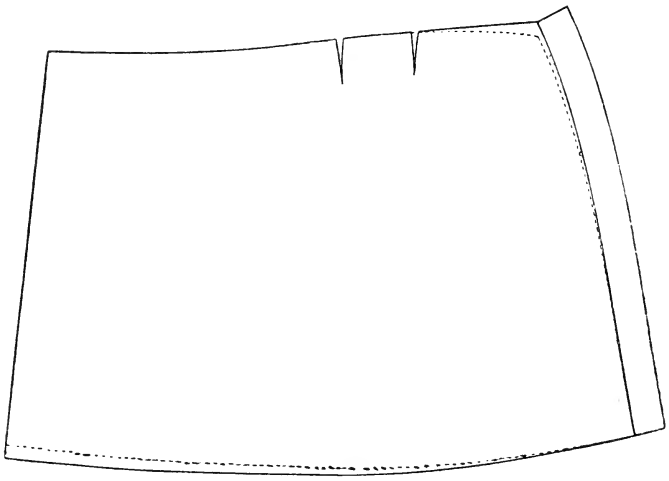
47

If there is plenty outlet in the skirt pleat, so that the same can be let out as much as necessary, the fault can be easily corrected, only the surplus in the front has to be taken away. If there is



48.

not enough outlet in the skirt pleats, nothing else can be done but to rip the skirt and to bring it up in the back as much as necessary. Consequently the skirt will be too short in the back



49.

and too long in front, so that it must be shortened from here, extending to the pleat.

This alteration shows on Figure 46.

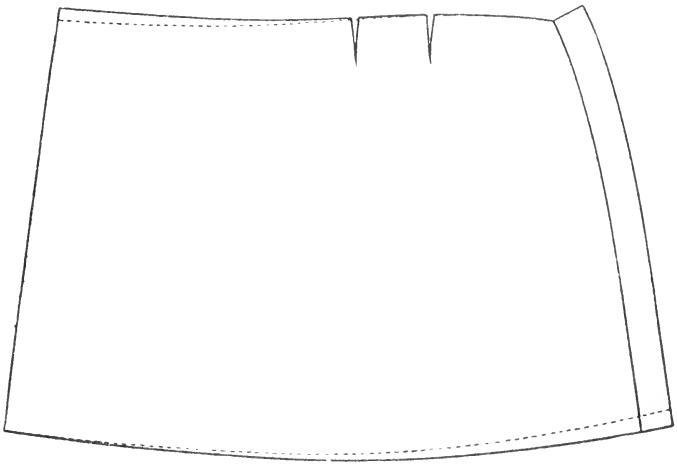
Should the skirts lap over in the back, but separate in front, and in case there is not sufficient outlet available in front, they must be moved up in front accordingly.

To equalize the length the lower edge from the pleat to the front must be shortened as much as necessary. Figure 47 makes this alteration clear. The shortening has to be done also at the back skirt.

In both cases it is necessary that the waist seam of the skirt will have the exact form as before. The V has to be cut deeper accordingly. Very often one will notice that well fitting skirts show a cross wrinkle above the hips. The cause of this fault is too much rounding in the waist seam of the skirt compared with the front part.

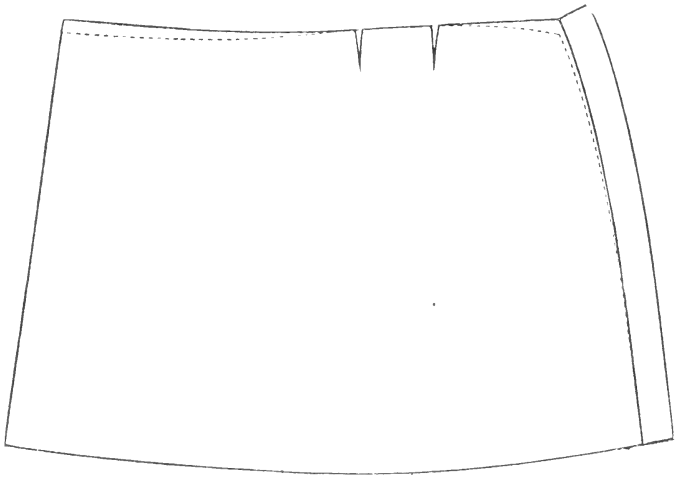
This pronounced rounding has to be taken away, more or less, according to the size of the cross wrinkle. See Figure 48.

In case the skirts flare too much on the sides and separate in the pleat, although they fall correctly in front, the skirt has to be lifted up at the back, from the pleat where the flare starts. By



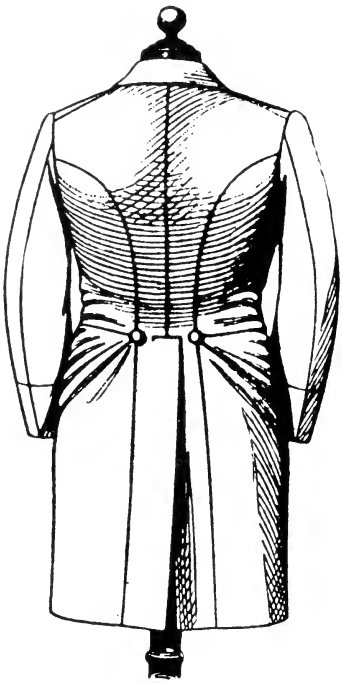
50.

doing this the flare on the side disappears and will be diverted to the back, thereby replacing the missing part previously mentioned. Should the pleat on the flare show too much width, it



51.

certainly must be taken away. In case the skirts are correct in the back, although they separate in front, and flares on the sides are also there, an opposite alteration is necessary. The skirt beginning at the flare has to be moved up to the front as much as necessary. See Figure 50. If by doing this the skirt laps too much over in front, the front edges have to be corrected.



52.

Regarding shortening and regulation of the lower edge I refer to Figures 46 and 47.

It may happen that these two described faults show at the same time. In this case the flares on the side are larger and the skirts separate in the back and in front. Then the alteration has to be done as shown in Figure 51. The skirt has to be moved up in front and in the back as much as necessary. Through this alteration the coat will lose some of its original length.

The very evident faults shown on Figure 52 are also caused by an ill-fitting skirt.

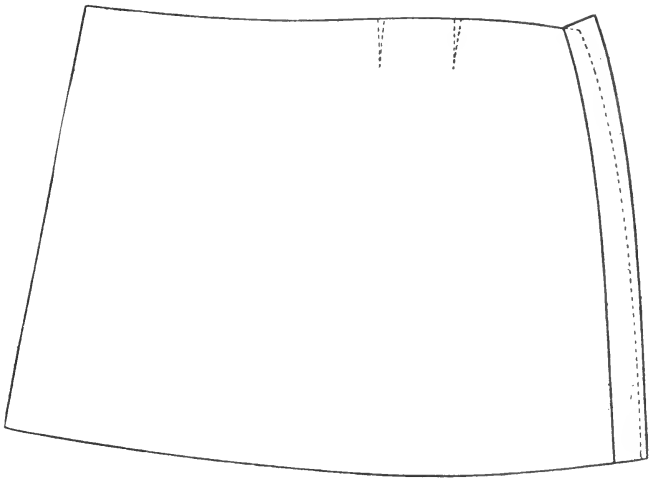
The same is too tight above the hips and the seat, which will be very evident through cross-wrinkles, beginning at the waist buttons.

Also in many cases similar cross-wrinkles will show in front.

Inasmuch as the skirt, on account of being too narrow, cannot come down over the hips, the front part above same will press together, resulting in small cross-wrinkles, but the skirt in the back and very often in front will separate. Large hips and a large seat produce this fault very often, which is caused by insufficient V's being provided for in the waist seam of the skirt.

Many tailors do not think these necessary and believe they can accomplish the necessary rounding for hips and seat by holding in on the places in question, or by first shaping the skirt

with irons above the hip and in the pleat. This is only possible if the hips are not very protruding and the seat is small. It is not advisable if same are larger, because the larger rounding



53.

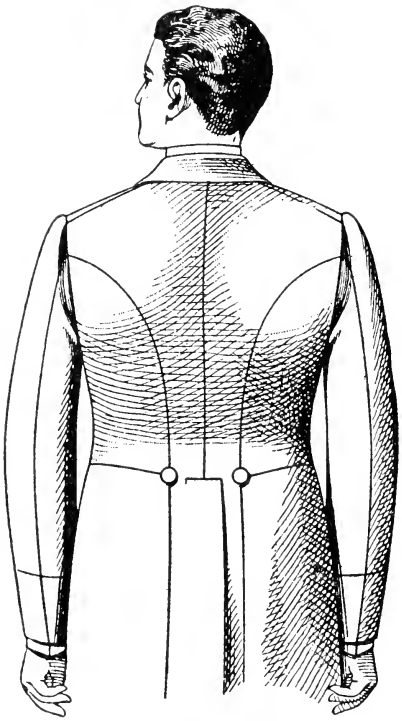
that results must be taken care of more extensively, which can only be accomplished with much work and if the goods are very soft.

But even with these the fullness will come back if the garment is worn for some time, and small wrinkles will appear in the skirt which do not beautify the garment.

Now the alteration on Figure 52 will be described.

The skirt must have the right width over the hip and seat, which has to be facilitated by letting out the pleat, even risking piecing the skirt. If this cannot be risked because the piecing shows too much, nothing else is left but to cut an entirely new skirt, if the customer will not stand for a shortening of the whole coat from 1 to 2 inches. By shortening this way, which must be done in the waist line, the fault in many cases will be averted without making a new skirt. Through letting out the pleat, the waist line in the skirt will become longer than that of the part above, but the excess must not be held in. It has to be removed by V's in order to bring the necessary width for hips and seat in the right place.

For larger alterations I might recommend making a paper pattern first, to make the changes on same, and to cut the faulty skirt accordingly.

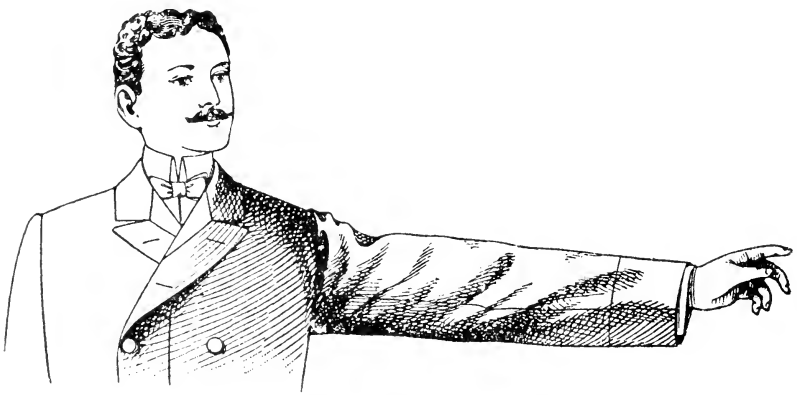


54.

XI. Faults at the Armhole and Sleeve.

To the good points of a garment there has to be also a comfortable and good fitting sleeve as much as one can make it possible. To make this is one of the hardest tasks of the tailor, as in many cases the customer makes demands which cannot be fulfilled.

There are mainly two faults for which the tailor always will be blamed. First, wrinkles showing in the back of the under sleeve when the arm is held down (Fig. 54). Second, when stretching out the sleeve shows wrinkles and becomes a little shorter. (Figs. 55 and 56.)



55.

To make a sleeve without the first mentioned wrinkle is not very difficult. It only has to be formed to the back, as the lines

show from (e) to (f), and from (a) to (e) in Figure 58.

But by stretching out the arm one would be very uncomfortable because of the shortness between the full and the marked

56

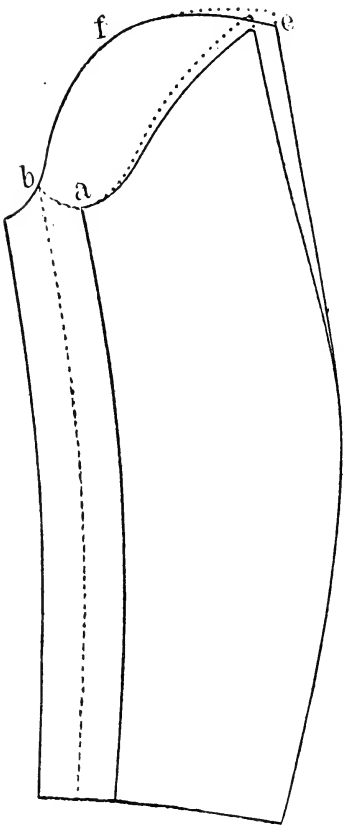
line. This length must be there in order to facilitate the movement of the arm to the front.

Where the sleeve has to be very comfortable, as on outing and on driving coats, more length must be added on the top and under sleeve from "e" to "f" and from "e" to "b" across "a," as shown on Figure 57, with + + + + lines. Certainly you cannot figure on a good looking sleeve.

The faults, which will show after the setting in of the sleeves, must logically be looked for at the armhole or sleeve. It is necessary to illustrate this.

Scant armholes are uncomfortable, but it is the same case with too large ones, because the sleeve on these is very seldom cut, or can be cut, so that it would replace the missing in the armhole. This means especially the armholes which are cut out too much below or in the back on the side part. These have to be avoided especially. In both cases, in the first more than in the latter, the coat, when sitting down, will not only be pushed up and when lifting the arm will be pulled up in the waist, but the sleeve also will be tight and uncomfortable in several places. It is also dangerous to cut out the armhole too much in front.

By this the coat will be too tight across the breast and will pull away from the body by moving the arms. If the sleeve is not cut very wide and full in front, the coat will keep its bad appearance.



57.

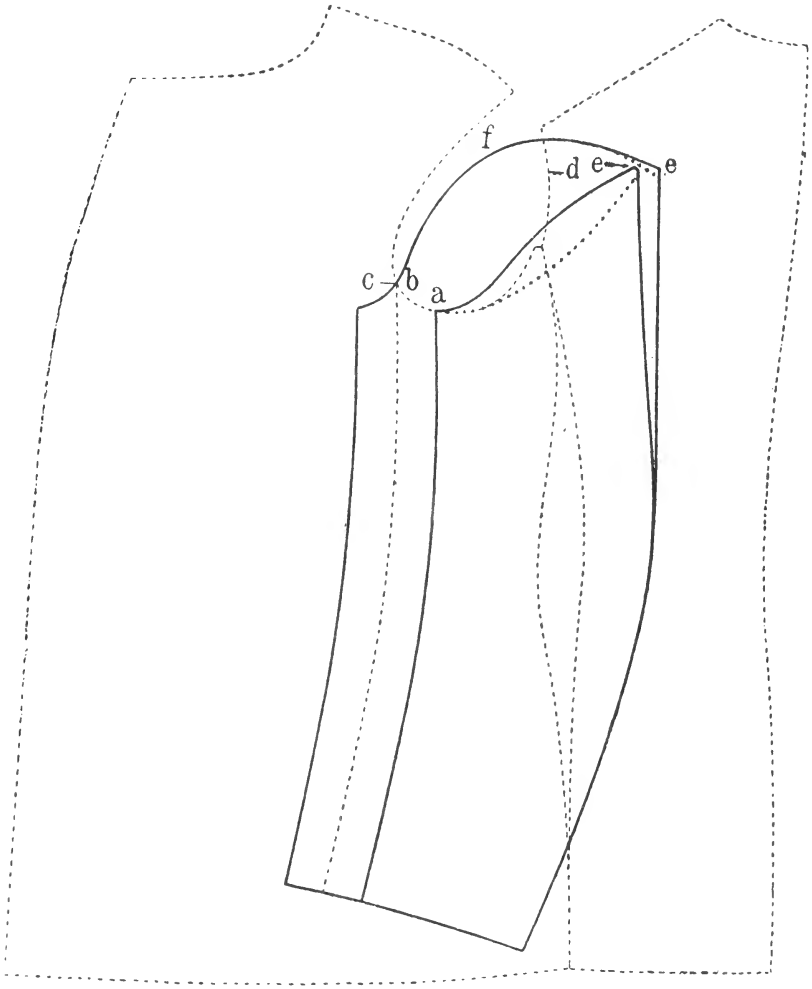
Very important is the forming of the sleeve in connection with the width and height of top sleeve and the cut out of the undersleeve. It is not the purpose of this book to demonstrate cutting systems, therefore the following demonstration will be reserved for points which must be observed when cutting. The circumference of the armhole is necessary for the width of the sleeve, the length, diameter of the ready armhole for the height of the top sleeve and the cut out of the under sleeve. Should the armhole be changed later in its circumference or its form, it is evident that the sleeve also must be changed accordingly.

The top sleeve will be influenced through the width of the front part shoulder. At present a small width of the shoulder is modern and the sleeve positions are made accordingly. In this case a higher top sleeve is required. If the shoulder is wider, the same must be more flattened. Also in case the shoulder is artificially heightened, the head of the top sleeve must be made higher. Next to the correct and oblong form of the sleeve, it is very important how the sleeve is set in, as the appearance and the comfortable fitting of the entire garment depends very much on the correct position of the sleeves in the armhole.

Therefore, the definition of the points of the armhole, where

the front and back middle of the sleeve have to be placed, is very important.

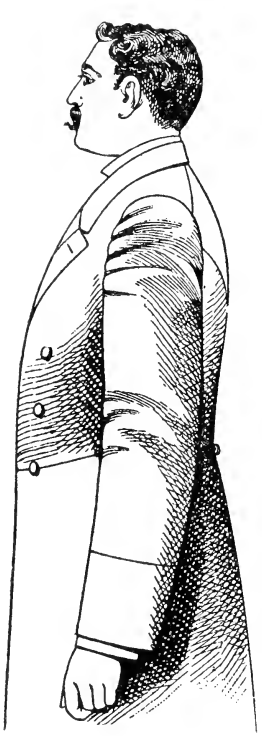
First define the top sleeve notch. One will find the same by



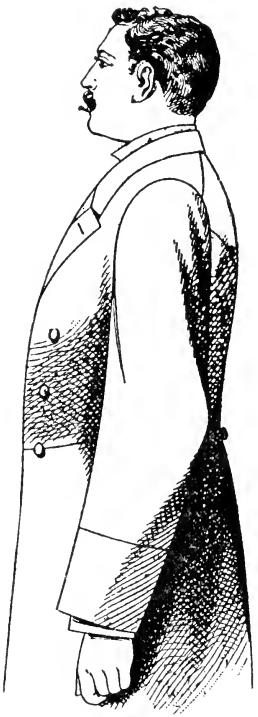
58.

placing the sleeve on the front part, as in Figure 58, so that the hollow part of the undersleeve conforms to that of the armhole. The front center of the sleeve (b) should meet the front armhole and the entire sleeve should hang a little to the front. When the front middle of the armhole (c) is marked, then divide these

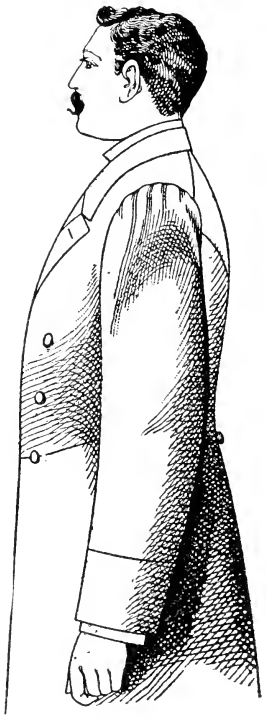
into half and receive the notch on the back part through point (d). Through this simple manipulation one will find the correct notches for the sleeve, which only can be depended on if armhole and sleeve conform in width and height.



59.



60.



61.

This only refers to a normal figure, but if the figure is stooping it will be necessary to place the sleeve in front about ¼ to ½ inch higher, and in the back deeper accordingly. In the opposite case, if the figure is erect the sleeve must be put deeper in front and higher in the back. One will see, when the arm hangs down, whether the sleeve is correct and without fault.

If the sleeve is too deep in front and set in too high in the back, cross-wrinkles will show at the armhole and at the elbow joint, and it will lay too tight at the wrist joint. Figure 59.

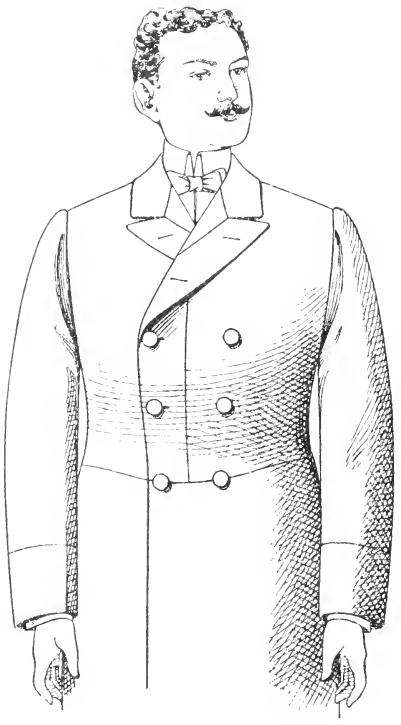
If the sleeve is too high in front and too deep in the back,

diagonal wrinkles will show in the front and in the back, as on Figure 60, and it will lay too tight on the back of the wrist joint.

Anybody can see at a glance how to make these alterations.

If the sleeve fits correctly in front and back, despite this, faults might show which can only

62.

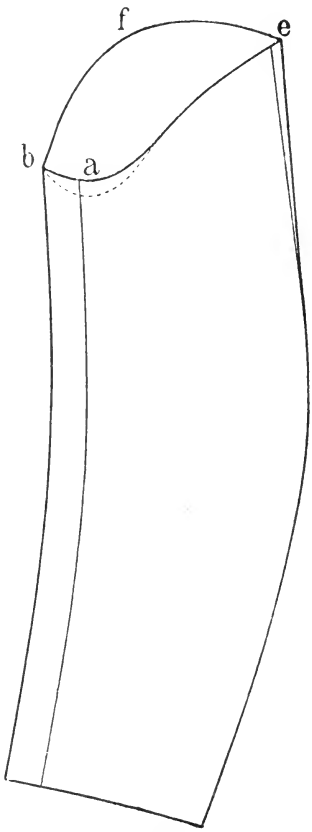


63.

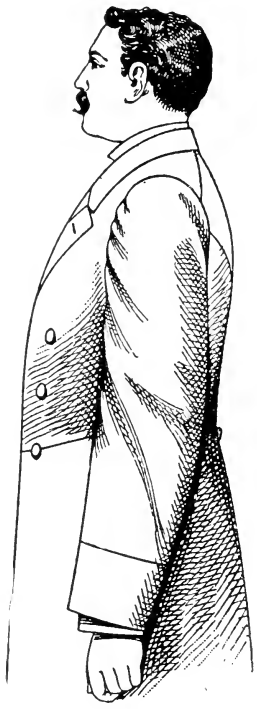
be traced to an incorrect cutting of the sleeve. Figure 61 will show common faults of this kind. The unsightly diagonal wrinkles, which show on the upper arm, and the bending in of the shoulder, are the cause of a too flat sleeve head. If this is to be remedied, the entire sleeve has to be taken out and changed according to the marked lines in Figure 62, by taking off from the sleeve head at points (e) and (b) to (f), and deepening the undersleeve as much as is lost in height at (b) and (e).

The front and the back notch of the sleeve will be in the same place and below at the wrist same must be lengthened as much as was taken away at (e) and (b).

Figure 63 also shows a very common fault. The undersleeve is not sufficiently cut out



64.



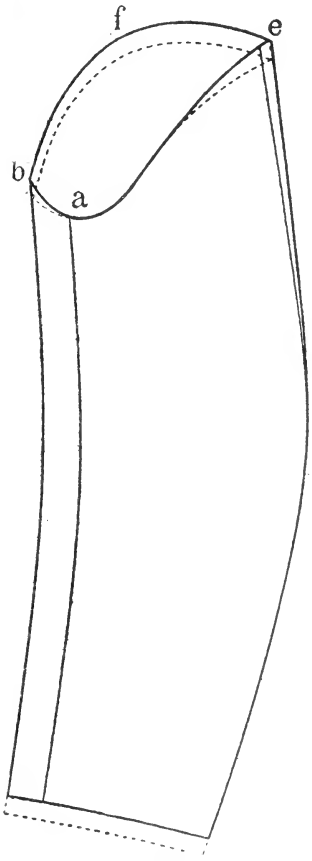
65.

in front, consequently it will be too long in front, and this surplus length will form ugly and uncomfortable cross wrinkles, which will extend in a diagonal direction at the top sleeve. Figure 64, broken lines, will show how to change this.

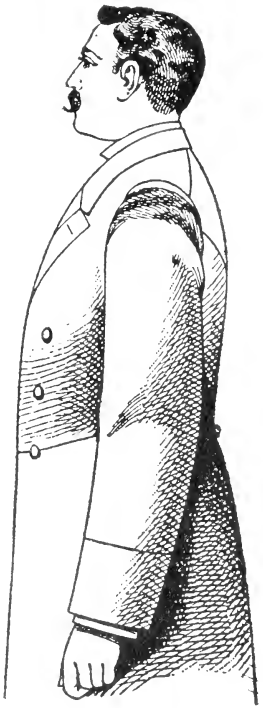
The undersleeve at (a) has to be deepened as much as necessary, gradually extending to both sides.

The opposite case is less frequent and the undersleeve is cut out too much at (a). Then the top sleeve will be too long and cross wrinkles will show the whole length (see Fig. 65).

This has to be changed according to Figure 66. After ripping out the entire sleeve, more or less has to be taken away at the top sleeve from (e) over (f) to (b) according to the size of the wrinkles and the undersleeve must be changed accordingly, but so that nothing is lost at (a). For the setting in of the sleeve the original points in the armhole have to be taken as a standard, consequently a lengthening of the sleeve is necessary at the wrist joint. A too high head on a top sleeve shows wrinkles as on Figure 67. This can be remedied by flattening the head on the top sleeve at (f) to (e) and (b). (See Fig. 68.)



66.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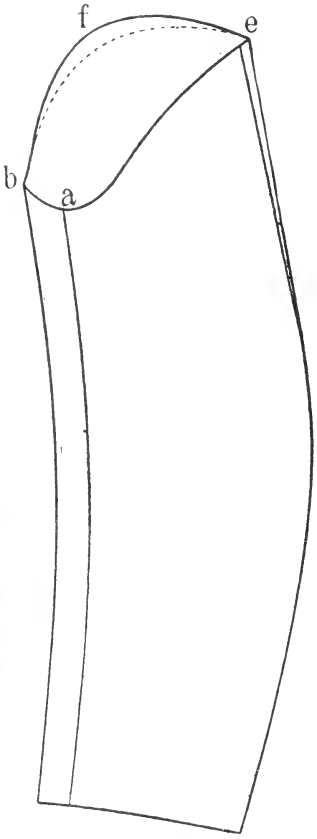


68.

In closing this chapter I call your attention to look very carefully if the tailor put in the sleeve properly. For instance, a

displacing of the sleeve parts when sewing together will cause the sleeve to become twisted and show ugly wrinkles, although set in correctly. Also a too narrow or too short cut lining, or a lining displaced by incorrect felling, might cause a bad fitting sleeve.

XII. Faults Caused Through the Collar Being Cut Incorrectly or Handled in a Wrong Way.

The collar, although in size and looks the most unimportant part of the coat, nevertheless plays an important role. It is, in many cases, the main cause if a garment does not fit.

The collar is the soul of the coat. This seemingly bold assertion is fully justified. Only with a well-fitting collar can one accomplish a good-fitting coat. On the other hand, through a faulty one, even if the coat fits well otherwise, the right position of all parts to each other will not be correct, resulting always in considerable faults.

Perhaps, on account of its insignificance, the cutter will not pay enough attention to it, and will leave the work to the tailor, who very seldom understands the right way of cutting a collar. To instruct a tailor how a collar is cut in each case, or to add a correct collar model to each coat, is often neglected as being unimportant. This will not take up as much time as usually is supposed, but would save the cutter and the tailor much time and trouble, and simplify the task. Often, if things do not come out right, alterations must be made, which consume hours of work. Therefore the addition of a correctly cut collar model is recommended the more, because when cutting not only the length of the lapels and the form of the neck hole, but also the carriage and the shoulder form of the respective customer might be taken into consideration.

But how are things really? There are many shops which boast only of one or two collar models, and these are used for cutting the collar for each coat. Therefore, when handling things in this way, a correct cut collar can be accomplished very seldom.

But not only through a faulty cut of the collar, but also by handling it in a wrong way (even in case it is cut correctly) an otherwise well-fitting garment will be brought out of order. This will be caused less often intentionally than by carelessness and inexperience of the tailor.

To prove this statement, the following explanations will be devoted to the faults which will result through incorrect cutting, wrong handling and faulty setting on of the collar. The causes will be defined and the alterations, which in each single case have to be made, will be illustrated as thoroughly as possible.

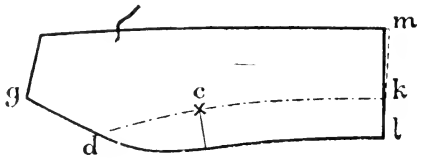
I will remark right away that it is not my intention to teach collar construction. This belongs to an instruction in cutting. The following explanations will be restricted to, calling your attention to several points which have to be considered carefully when cutting and handling the collar. In the chapter, "The Judging of the Faults and What Has to be Done to Remedy Them," I illustrated rules commonly referring to this. The same refer also to the faults which are caused through the collar in particular.

Small irregularities, caused by faulty handling, like a collar too hollow in front, or too long, or if the latter stands higher on the sides than in the back, will be noticed on the collar itself, and can easily be changed there, supposing that in general the coat fits well.

Things will be different if larger faults resulted from an ill-fitting collar. In this case the collar will always look well, but on other places cross wrinkles, surplus width and discomfort will appear. Supposing the coat, when trying on, appears correct on those faulty places. The inexperienced will be confronted with a riddle, the solution of which will appear to him very difficult, although it should not take him very long to find out that the cause of the ill-fitting must lay entirely somewhere else.

One can only avoid these faults by being very careful when preparing and handling the collar, and giving the tailor the necessary and exact instructions and seeing to it that the same will be followed correctly. If this is not done, similar faults

will always happen again, despite all precautions. The same are mostly the result of the carelessness and inexperience of the tailor, who will spoil the garment entirely without any bad intention. Everybody will easily understand that these inconveniences, in most cases, are the result of a superficial try on. When trying on, one will not look after the collar carefully, and very often any collar, which is just at hand will be basted on, whether it fits in the neck hole of the coat or not. Therefore I will give some hints referring to the fitting, but which only concern the collar.



69.

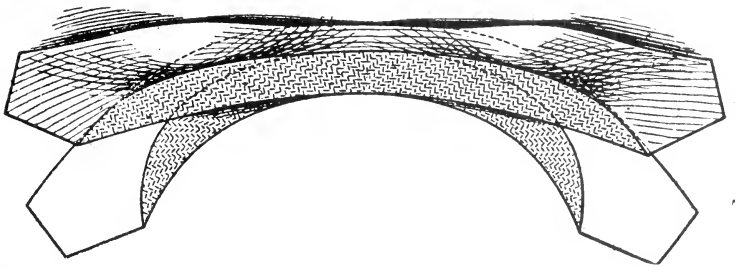
If, like many colleagues are accustomed to, a perfect ready undercollar will be basted on when fitting, this can only be of advantage if same is handled with the right care. If, however, out of habit, the collar is basted on without thought and the tailor does not care whether it fits well or not, he will be easily deceived.

An under collar, only cut out of canvas and only superficially shaped, will not accomplish its purpose, but it will always be good to put it on only temporarily, but to rip it off after the garment is put on. Such a collar only prevents the seams from opening when the coat is tried on. But in this case the shoulder seams shall only be basted to the neck hole, the eventual outlet in the neck hole must remain open. Also the canvas must be cut in on several places, as far as the outlet goes, in order to avoid any tightness around the neck. How a garment fits on the neck can be judged better without a collar, as a faulty collar is of great disadvantage to the coat.

If, then, such a try on is pinned in all remaining parts and the neck hole correctly marked (the best way would be to stretch the collar on the customer), fasten the completely finished and shaped undercollar at the neck hole as it should be done on the ready-made coat. Small irregularities at the collar can be remedied at the same time. If the trying on is done in

this way, one is able to judge the causes of the various faults more safely and can avoid many alterations entirely.

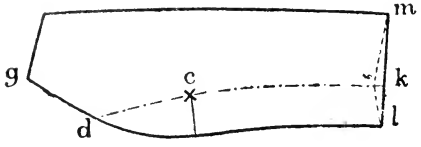
Now before approaching the right theme I will remark that I take it for granted the coat fits well without the faulty collar. First I will illustrate the small faults, which show direct on the



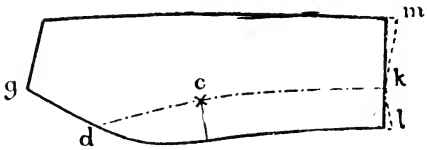
collar and which are caused by incorrect cutting. Figure 69, full lines, shows a collar cut correctly according to the neck hole. On this the center seam must run accurately, in a right angle to the collar stand. If the latter will be stretched from below c to the center seam on each side so much that it can be laid round the same way, as shown in Figure 70-a, this will be entirely sufficient. This will amount to about ½ to 2 inches, according to the formation of the shoulder, which has to be considered when making the collar. The collar must be stretched only on the outside edge; more for square shoulders; for sloping less than for normal ones; but this stretching must only be extended to the point where the collar stand begins, which is illustrated clearly in Figure 70-a. The breakline must not be pressed in (when the figure is normal), as the neck does not become narrow upwards, but is formed cylindrically, so that a shortening of the breakline is not only unnecessary, but entirely contrary to any rule. For persons who stoop the collar can be pressed in a little more in the back. Notwithstanding this, many tailors will press all collars too much in the breakline, on account of which the outer edge also must be stretched a good deal, so that a form like Figure 70-b results.

Through such an excessive and faulty handled collar the

entire coat will be deformed and faults will result as illustrated on Figures 80, 81 and 82. I will refer to this later on. A similar bad habit of many tailors is the hollowing out of the back seam at (k), regardless if same is done as on Figure 71 or as on Figure 72. Through this the breakline becomes shortened, but the



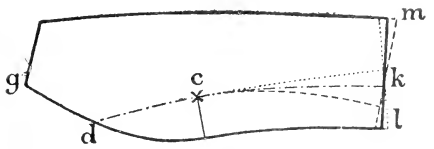
71.



72.

result will be entirely different than expected. In both cases the breakline will show a deepening in the center, which cannot be removed, either by setting or by pressing it higher. Only if the center seam of the collar is cut in a right angle to the collarstand (see the full line m, k, l), this fault will be remedied. On Figure 69 one will see marked a little lengthening of the collar from (k) to (m), but this very small addition must only be put on at the outer edge, and only in case of heavy goods, which do not give and which have to be used for the undercollar. The intention to make the collar close fitting at the back of the neck is a good one, but the result will be that same is very often cut in the center seam in such a way that the collarstand, extending from (l) to (k) will be shortened, but the breakline beginning at (k) will be widened to (m) (see alteration - - - - on Figure 73). Such a collar will only have the right height on the sides, but will lay too low in the back. This fault cannot be remedied, either by pressing or by setting the collar higher, but only by bringing the center seam in a right angle to the breakline, like the full lines on Figure 73 show. The opposite: the collar will show an elevation in the center seam and will be up too high in the neck, will appear if the center seam is cut in the opposite way, like the ..... marked lines in Figure 73. Now, what is the cause of these signs? As already mentioned on another

page, the neck is formed like a cylinder, and extends, with the exception of a slight enlargement at the connection with the shoulder, straight upwards all around. As on a well-fitting collar, the breakline must surround the neck in the back part and on the sides in even height. The same must extend in a right angle to the center seam of the neck, also to the center seam of the collar. If the center seam of the collar runs to the breakline obtuse or acute angled, so the breakline, which always must have its place in a right angle to the center of the collar, will find its place by itself and will lay higher or deeper, according to the direction of the center seam. Figure 73 shows the changed break lines as a result of a faulty cutting of the collar, above and below of the right breakline c to k.



73.

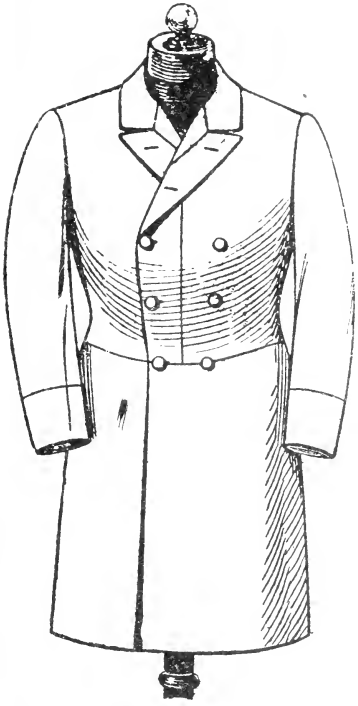
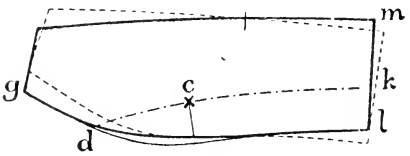

74.

Figure 74 shows a very common fault.

Here the breakline of the collar does not extend in the same direction with the breakline of the lapel. The collar has not the right run, as the tailor says. The cause of this fault is a collar which does not fit in the neck hole. It has, as commonly expressed, not enough collar stand. The lower edge of the collar stand has been cut too straight at the place in question, compared with the rounding of the neck hole. If such a too flat formed collar is put in the more hollow neck hole, the breakline will be too long in front.

Usually the tailor knows only one way to alter this: by iron-

ing in the breakline excessively to get rid of the surplus length. Just then the hollow part will result. How can this fault be remedied? Simply by replacing the missing goods above the breakline in another way. To form the neck hole better at the faulty place will hardly be possible, because this place very seldom has an outlet; therefore nothing else is left but to place the collar correctly. If the old one is wide enough in front it can be used again, if one does not prefer to make an entirely new one, which naturally takes more time and work.



75.

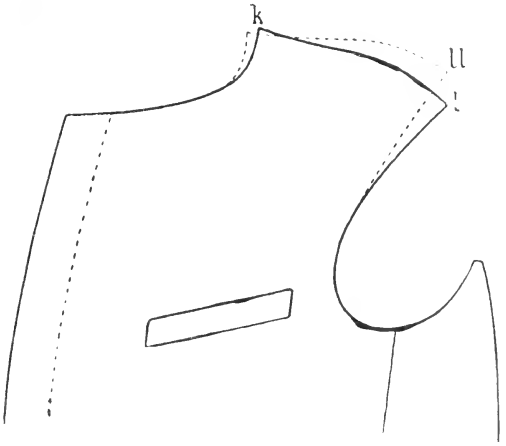
As already mentioned before, the hollow part, which the breakline of the collar shows in front, results in not enough collar stand. That means, not wide enough at the place in question.

The collar, Figure 75, marked with large, full lines, is the incorrect cut, and to this had to be added at the lower edge what was too hollow in the breakline, as is illustrated on the figure by a thin line. Nobody would think of piecing the collar on this place, therefore we must look for another way to replace the missing goods in order to have a well fitting collar, without making an entirely new one. To understand without difficulty how to arrange this, we will have to cut a model of the altered collar and lay same on the original (nonfitting) collar, as the broken lines on Figure 75 show. If the collar is changed exactly like this model, it has to be cut away in front at (g), extending a little above the line below (c), also at the lapel at (m), extending to the front as far as the little crossed point.

In front at the lapel the missing goods has to be pieced in case the collar on this place should not remain wide enough; also in the center of the back from (m) to (l) and from (l) to the front. But to do all this would be just as troublesome as the construction of a new collar. Therefore we must try to simplify the alteration, and I will give the directions, as follows:

The cutting of the lower edge at (g) is absolutely necessary; the piecing in front at the lapel only conditionally. The collar

in the back might remain entirely unchanged the way the full lines indicate. The eventual necessary piecing at the center seam and below at (l) is of such a trifling nature that it might as well remain undone. By stretching the outer edge and shaping the back part, the collar in this place can be easily brought in right shape again. By doing this the alteration will be more simple and there is also a possibility of using the old collar again. To decide the degree necessary for the cutting off of the front part without cutting an extra collar model for each case, the following rule will have to be accepted as stationary:



76.

If the breakline of the collar shows a rounding in front, the collar has to be cut away at (d), amounting to the size of the hollow at (g) double this amount, extending almost to below (c), and the back part has to be stretched.

Very often the latter manipulation is unnecessary. After I have shown those faults and their alterations, which are caused by incorrect cutting of the collar, I will explain those which are caused by a faulty setting on of the collar. A collar put on too long will only stand off around the neck, otherwise it will not influence the correct fit of the coat in any way. The most simple way to remedy this will be to rip off the collar and set it up correspondingly shorter. As a rule, however, the tailor will make this alteration as a final resort, but will first try to remove the length by pressing in the breakline. This will help for the time being. But after some time the same fault will show again. If not, which would be against any rule, the breakline would be drawn in by an edge stay.

In both cases the breakline will become short and will fit close to the neck, but the outer edge will show too much length, which will not beautify the coat. Therefore one should try the radical cure in the first place and not cause unnecessary work and waste time through small, insufficient alterations.

I will mention here at the same time another very common fault: the standing off of the collar on one side only. A collar set on too long on one side will very seldom be the cause of this, as it is difficult to imagine that a tailor should be so careless in his work as to set on one half of the collar longer than the other.

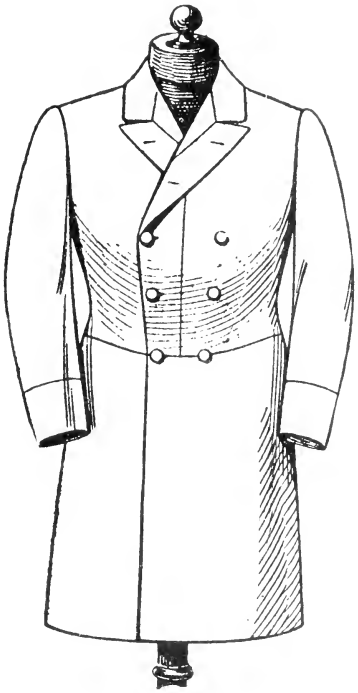
Nevertheless, it might happen once in a while, and before setting on the collar shorter on one side, one should ascertain if in fact it is shorter there than on the other one.

If one by measuring both parts is convinced that the collar has an even length on both sides it will be evident that the fault must lay somewhere else.

In many cases the same originates on the shoulder, which is misformed. This causes the coat to be too tight at the shoulder points, but around the neck it will appear too wide. Although it does not belong here, nevertheless I will explain shortly how to alter this fault—shown on Figure 76, with dotted lines—but I will emphasize that this is not the fault of the collar.

The front shoulder has to be brought closer to the neck, amounting to about one-third as much as the breakline at the side in question appears to be too long. But at (k) must be shortened about half the amount that the shoulder was straightened. At the armhole at (l) to be lengthened the entire amount of the excessive length of the breakline and made smaller correspondingly. The shortened neck hole must then be stretched as much as necessary so that it regains its previous shape and length and permits the collar to fit in without any change. Through this stretching of the neck hole the front shoulder will be turned around and will direct the width necessary for the protruding shoulder to the right place. Necessarily the padding must be changed, too, and it must be resorted to a wedge as same cannot be shaped as the goods.

The standing off of the collar on one side only shows when the coat is buttoned. If it is opened it can scarcely be noticed. The surplus length at the breakline effects a falling back of the front part in question in a higher degree and will form in front of the armhole a pleat becoming larger further down.



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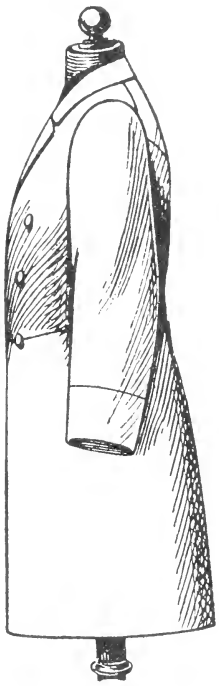
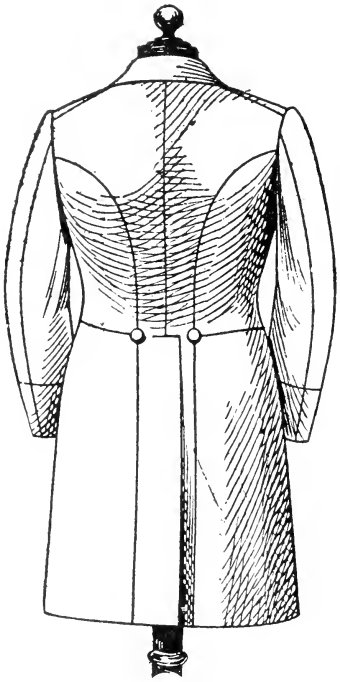


78

The faulty front part will look as in Figure 31, which shows a front part falling back on account of not sufficient shoulder height.

Now I will explain the faults, for which the collar is responsible, but which will not be evident on the collar. In the first place there is the collar, cut correctly, but set on too short. Before explaining the irregularities caused by such a collar, I will again illustrate how a correctly cut and shaped collar has to be set on. For a normal figure it has to be sewed on smoothly across the back part—that is, in such a way that the width of

the back part in the neck hole shall remain the same as cut. From the shoulder seams to about 1½ inches to the front it has to be sewed on so full at the front part that the neck hole, if it has not already been done before, can be expanded so much in this place as the form of the shoulder requires to produce a



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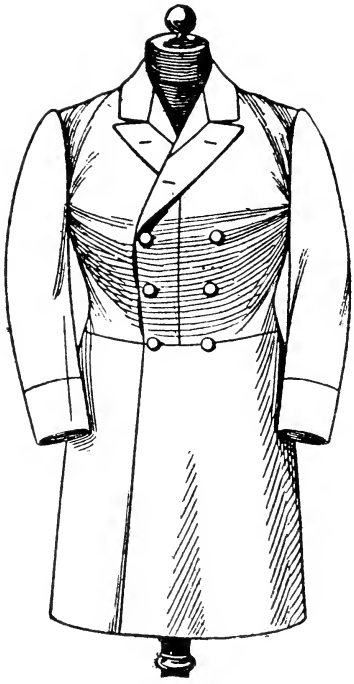


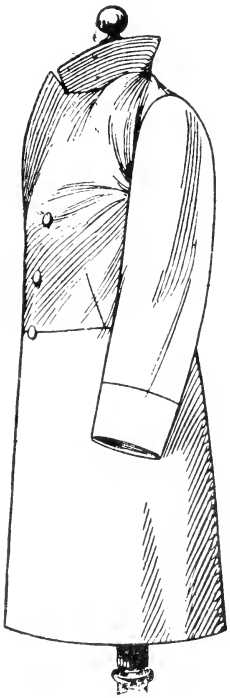
80

smooth-fitting collar. To the front it also has to be set on more smoothly. For a stooped figure it must be held rather tight. For an erect figure rather full.

Figures 77, 78, 79 show a well fitting coat in front, side and back view. The collar is sewed on correctly and surrounds the neck in the back part to the shoulder in even height. From these it runs in a correct line to the breakline.

The front and back part are without wrinkles and the front skirt edge shows a perpendicular direction. The garment has, so to say, the right aplomb.

Figures 80, 81 and 82 illustrate the result of a collar set on too short or too short in the breakline. As shown on Figure 80, one would not think that the collar was to blame for the irregularities which the garment shows. It fits well around the neck, and breakline and lapel appear sufficiently long enough. But we observe on the garment itself bias wrinkles extending from the shoulder point to below the arm. The front parts are moved up at the breast and cross wrinkles appear. Also the garment



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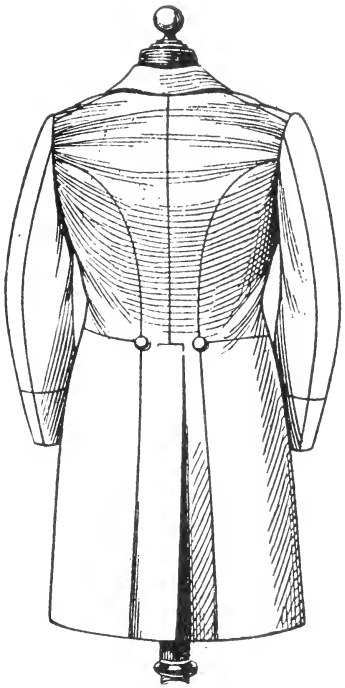


82

is too narrow across the breast and causes tightness, and further presses in the armhole in front and below. The sleeve, although having the right length, becomes too short and looks as if it has been set in too high in front and too deep in the back.

In the waist the garment stands off in front and the skirt expands too much. Fig. 81. It does not look much better in the back part. The back appears to be too long and throws wrinkles right across the shoulders as if the front shoulder is too short. In the back at the armhole the garment does not fit close

and appears too wide, just as if it had to be taken in considerably. Below in the waist it lays on too tight and bias wrinkles show, extending from these to the front of the armhole. The skirt also loses its right position and laps over in a way, as previously mentioned and illustrated on Figure 82. All these indicated faults originate from a collar set on too short, although correctly cut and shaped. But if same has been shaped too round, as Figure 70 (b) shows, it will cause two more faults, besides the previously described. If one turns up such a collar, the collar at the shoulder seam of the front part neck hole buckles. It looks as if the neck hole in this place has been stretched too much. (See Fig. 81.)

In the center of the back part the collar lays deeper than on the sides (see Fig. 82), which resulted because through excessive stretching the outer edge became too long, consequently the back center of the collar came out of its right position and formed as Figure 73 shows, with — — — — lines.

Even if such a collar is sewed on correctly, so that in fact it is long enough in the neckhole, as a correctly shaped collar has to be, yet as a result of the excessive expanding to the front it will become too long and move out of its place. As the surplus length cannot be worked in, this will cause the collar to become too short in general.

The tailor or cutter, who does not possess sufficient experience and therefore will not be able to judge that all these faults originate from a too short collar or a too short breakline, will be shocked when he sees what became of the garment.

As he does not know what to do, he will alter all over. Then if he sees that this does not help in any way, there is nothing else left but to try another alteration. The final result always will be a totally spoiled garment.

If a garment shows the above described faults, first of all the collar on both sides has to be ripped so far that it stays sewed on from 2-3 inches only at the back part.

Then pull the garment in shape at all parts of the body and you will be astonished to notice that all wrinkles and discomforts have disappeared. Then put the collar to the neck hole.

as it should be, or pin it down, and you will see how much same should be lengthened or where a change must be made.

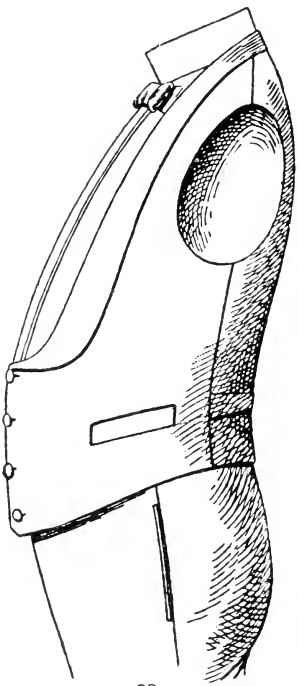
In closing this chapter, permit me to remark that it is absolutely wrong if a tailor is under the impression that, when a garment does not go high enough to the neck, or does not fit close at the neck, a short set on collar will accomplish this. This is entirely erroneous. If the garment does not show the right fit around the neck without a collar, a short set on collar will not accomplish this either.

This and also one too much shaped will only disarrange the fit of a coat.

Vests

After having discussed quite a number of faulty skirtcoats, coats and overcoats, I will now discuss faults very common on vests.

Every tailor considers the vest a garment which seems very easily fitted. This is right. However, there is a large difference between an ordinary or a really well fitting vest; a difference which very often is not considered at all or not understood. It is very essential that a correct fitting vest be comfortable, despite that the front parts must fit close everywhere and not show any wrinkles. As with a coat, when tailoring a vest, cutting and workmanship must go hand in hand. If this is not the case, faults will result which can be avoided when one is only a little careful. Mostly those are only of a trifling nature which have been overlooked when trying on, but are liable to spoil the garment or cause discomfort. The vests hereafter discussed will have the collars marked in the front part, not in the back part.



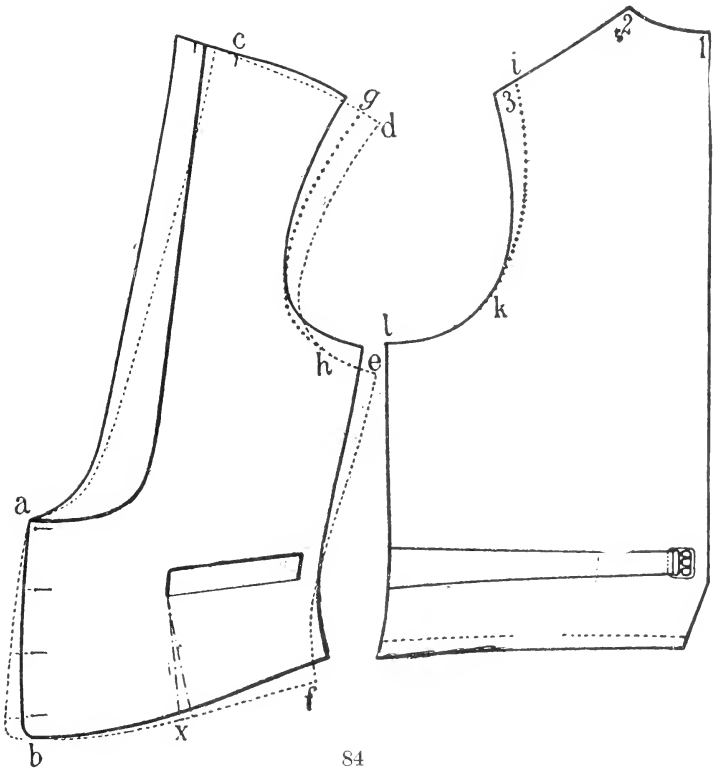
83

I. Vest Not Close Enough at the Bottom.

The first case will show a fault, very common on low cut vests, the alteration of which will cause many tailors much aggravation. This is a vest which does not fit close at the bottom, otherwise correct everywhere (Fig. 83). This is very disagreeable, because on account of the buttonholes a correction of the front edge is not possible.

The right way to remedy this would be with the help of a V, Figure 84x, whereby the surplus width would be taken away. However, the V must be made in a right angle, otherwise one

side of the edge would become longer, making necessary a regulation of the lower edge, which certainly must be avoided. This alteration is simple and sure and does not require much time.

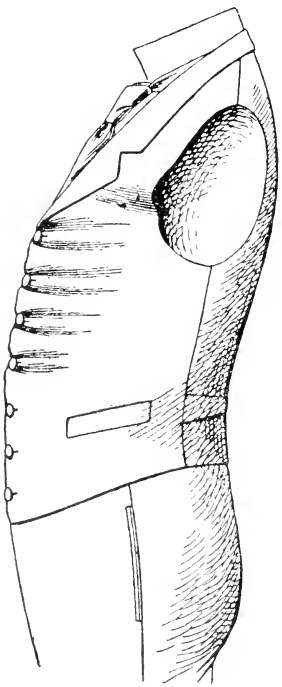


84

If it is not possible to alter with a V, for instance on fancy vests, there is only one possibility to alter it in another way by turning the front part. For this purpose open the vest, when it is put on, so that only the upper buttonhole remains buttoned. Put the front parts together, so that the vest fits close at the bottom, and mark on the right part how much must be taken away. Then rip back and front apart, take the one front part and place it on the other, as in Figure 84, so that both meet each other at (a) and the top one below at (b) extends half as much as the part which has to be taken away.

Now mark the entire vest according to the top part and you will see where to alter and the kind of alteration which is neces-

sary. Then the front part will have the form indicated by the full line (b-a) and the broken lines (a-c), (e-d), (d-e), (e-f), (f-b). The alteration at the neck hole is not difficult. However, it will be necessary to piece at the armhole at (d), in the side at (e) and at the lower edge from (f-b). This is possible at the two previously mentioned places and is done rather often, but not at the lower edge (f-b), the same has to remain as it is. To avoid the piece at the shoulder becoming too large, it is advisable to make same a little smaller, see the + + + + lines, (g-h). This is no fault and does not influence the fit of the vest. On the contrary, a vest with a smaller shoulder fits better, many customers preferring to wear such a one. The extending part at the back shoulder must be taken away at the armhole, Figure 84, the + + + + lines (i-k). Then the vest has to be put together in such a way that the points (c), (g) and (e) of the front part meet point 2 (i) and (l) of the back part, but what is too long on this has to be taken away across the bottom. This alteration, although troublesome, and consuming much time, will regulate the vest at (b), but a trifle will be lost at the side length, which cannot be helped.



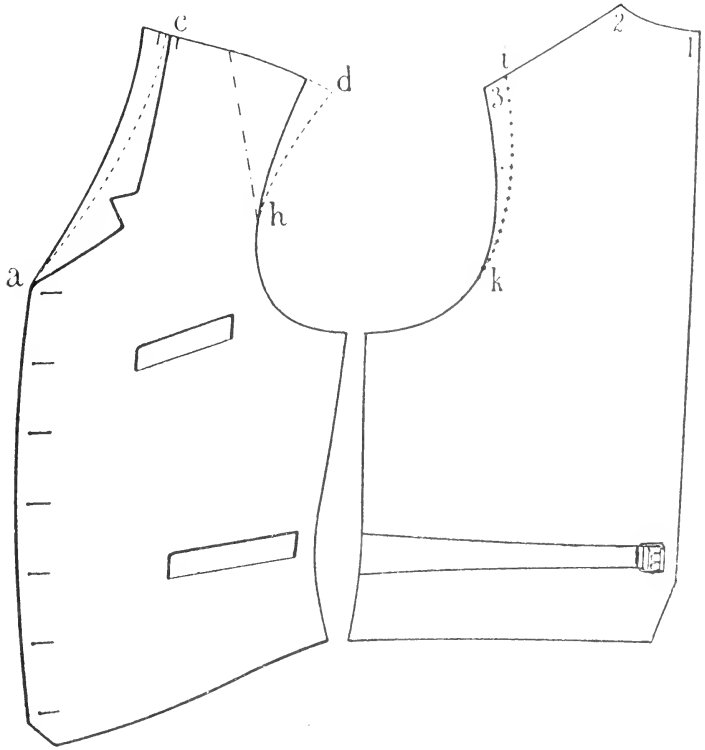
85

II. Vest Too Tight at the Breast.

Figure 85 shows a fault, also very common. The vest is too tight across the breast and on each side a wrinkle appears, becoming larger towards the armhole.

If one opens the vest at the top far enough, so that same fits smooth at the breast and at the armhole, the front part will go back and will stand apart at the breast extending to the bottom, and surplus width will show under the arms. Two causes might produce this fault: either the front shoulder has been put

too much to the neck at the beginning or has been brought in this wrong position by a too short set on collar or by ironing back the resulting width into the armhole. The essential point is to



86

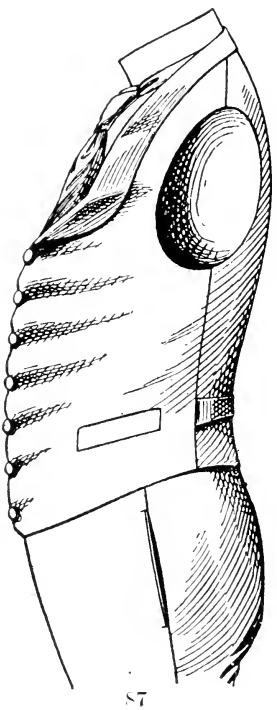
gain the necessary width at the breast edge, which will be accomplished easily if the front part gets its correct shoulder position. One has to crook the shoulder as much as necessary, Figure 86, (c, d), piece it, see the —.—.—. lines, and sew the shoulder seam together so that the points 2 and 3 of the back part now come to point (c) and (d) of the front part.

But if one will not piece at the front shoulder until (d), same will become a little smaller, which, as mentioned before, does not matter, but then the back shoulder must also become smaller, by taking away at the armhole the surplus width, Figure 86, the + + + + lines (i-k).

Any expert will easily see the effect of this arrangement of the shoulder. The entire front part moves more to the front, with the result that the surplus width below the arms replaces the missing goods at the breast and that the tightness and wrinkles at the armhole, which were observed at this place, disappear.

III. Vest Too Long at the Front Shoulder.

Figure 87 shows another fault very common on vests.



87

The breakline becomes too long in front and farther below the vest will show cross wrinkles. As a result it will appear too short at the bottom; otherwise the fit is correct.

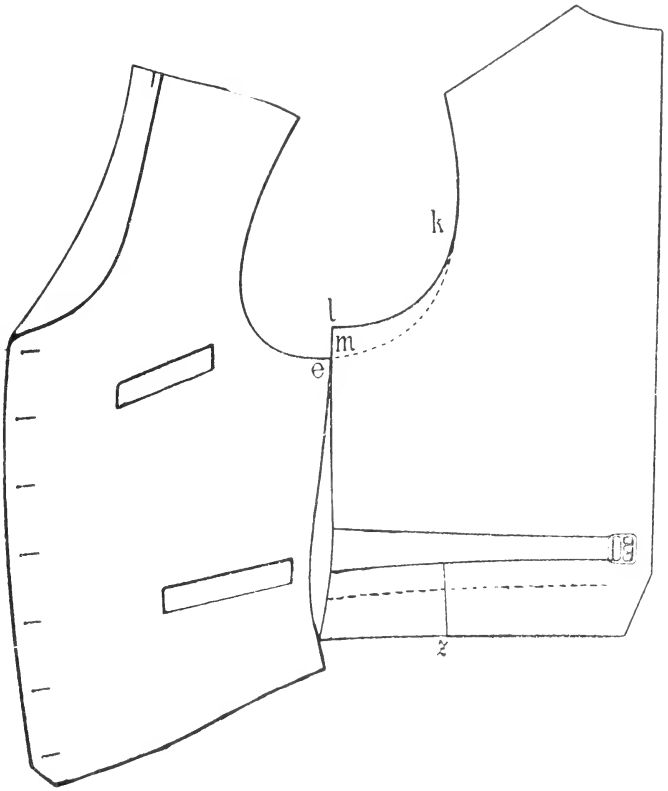
Certainly one has to imagine the coat worn over it, otherwise the collar would stand away in the back, resulting in surplus length. The cause of this is, that the front part is too long compared with the back part. In our case it will be sufficient to rip open the side seams and to move the front part deeper accordingly, Figure 88, so that point (e) of the front part meets point (m) of the back part. By doing this the length in the cross wrinkles will be directed to the bottom and the vest will be longer accordingly, about 1 inch. The extension up in the back part, Figure 88 (m-l), must be cut away extending to (k). Below the front part is permitted to protrude. In case the back part shall extend to the lower edge of the front part, a new back has to be cut to correspond with the length of the front part.

The buckle, if there is one, in many cases has to be set accordingly deeper, so that it fits again accurately in the waist line, which shows plainly on Figure 88, with broken lines.

I might recommend to put a small vent on each side about 2 inches long.

Very often same will not be considered seriously and yet it is of great advantage and should be on each vest.

Also of much advantage is wedging in the back part, Figure 88z, which, like the little side vents, only has the purpose to



88

facilitate, when sitting down, the yielding of the vest above the hip.

IV. Gaping of the Collar on Low Cut Vests When Sitting Down.

Very often customers will complain that the collar on low cut vests, when sitting down, will be too long and gape, Figure 89. When standing and walking the vest fits correctly.

Many of my colleagues are not able to explain the cause of

this fault, therefore I think it is my duty to give an explicit explanation. When sitting down almost everybody will neglect his carriage, the body bends a little forward and collapses to a certain degree, the shoulders will stick up and be brought forward.

This will not only change the shoulder position, but also the

89

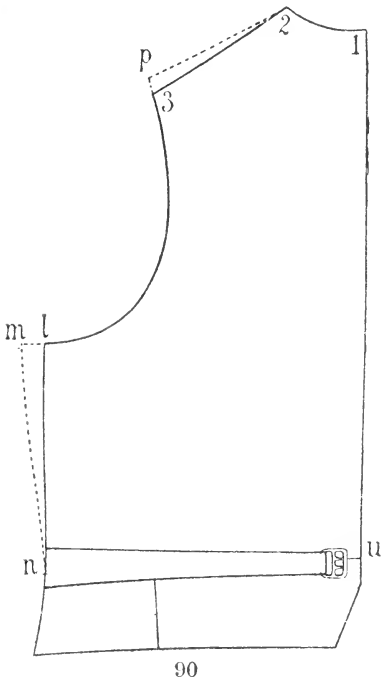
proportion of the front and back form; the first will be shorter; the latter, however, a little longer.

Now the vest will always be tried on in a standing position, and in order to obtain a good fit all unnecessary width at the shoulder and below the arm will be removed. But if the customer sits down and gets in the position just described, then it is self-explained that as a result of the changed carriage, also of the insufficient length of the back shoulder, the vest must become too long in the front shoulder.

This length would be noticed through the standing off of the

collar which does not fit close to the neck (on the side and in the back), but which the top garment, correctly fitting at this place, does not permit. Therefore same shows farther below, causing the gaping of the collar.

To prevent this, first of all, it will be necessary to lengthen the front shoulder a trifle at the armhole and to stretch it out sufficiently in front.



Besides the increased height of the shoulder, the vest has to be made wider on each side below the arm, a trifle more than the measure requires. In order to replace, at least to a certain extent, the too short back shoulder, when sitting down, there should be more width under the arm.

Consequently the vest will not fit close at the shoulder and in the back; also below at the armhole, but it is just the effect to have the same smooth fitting there which will produce the here illustrated fault.

The alteration can be accomplished without being noticed, by setting in a new back part and making the necessary additions, required at the former, Figure 90-3 (p-2) and (l-m-n).

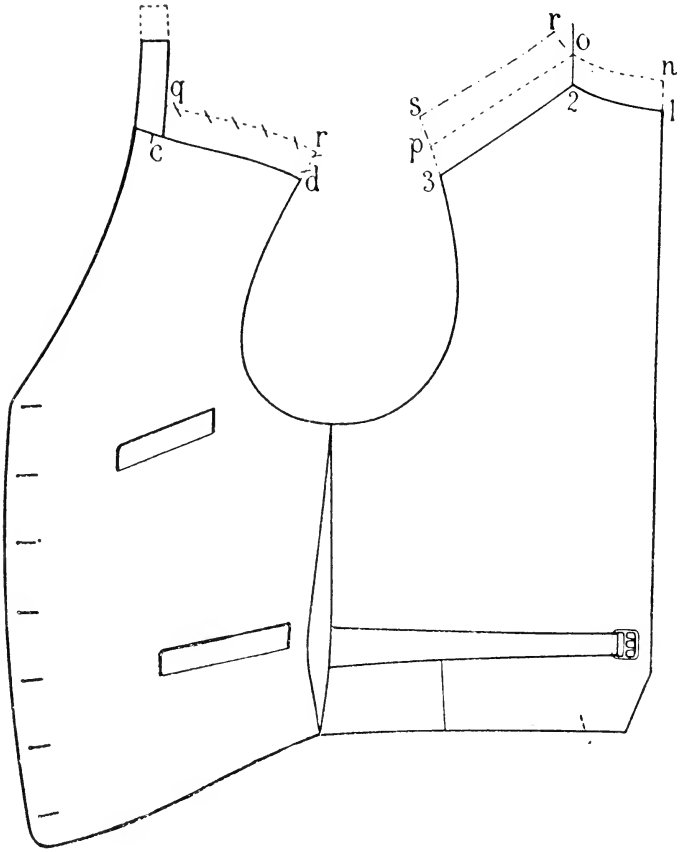
V. Lengthening of a Too Short Vest.

In answering the question as to whether a vest is too short, the opinion of the tailor will not always be considered authoritative. Very often the customer has a different opinion, which must be recognized out of necessity.

Therefore it might be superfluous to illustrate this fault figuratively. Even the most careful cutter will have had the experience that a vest might become too short. This will be unpleasant in every case. However, it will only be a fault which

can easily be corrected. Every vest can be lengthened in a simple way, but the customer must give his consent, that the opening of the vest and the armhole will lay a little deeper than before.

Suppose the vest is about one inch too short. Naturally the



91

missing goods cannot be pieced on below. Consequently there is only one way open, which will be the lengthening of the front and back shoulder (the back part also at the neck hole), amounting to about 1 inch. Thereby the entire vest moves down and obtains the required length.

However, this will require a new back part, because only in an exceptional case one would dare to piece the missing at the

front and back. The new back part in the neck hole must be about one inch higher than the old one (Fig. 91-1), (n), (o), but the distance (n), (o), must be the same as from (1) to (2). Also in the armhole at (3), about one inch more length is required, and after this the new shoulder, shaping from (p) to (o), has to be finished.

In order not to piece the front shoulder, about one inch, which had to be added at this place—the marked and again crossed lines, (d), (r), (q), must be added in addition to it at the back part.

But one must be careful that the neck hole, rounding (o), (r), and the armhole, (p), (s), will be brought forward correctly, which can easily be accomplished by applying the front shoulder.

Now the front part will remain as it is. However, the collar on each side extending to the back will be about one inch longer (Fig. 91), the dotted lines.

Pants

Now we come to the last part of this book, illustrating faulty pants. It will be necessary, before showing how to avoid these, to give some explanations.

To make a really well-fitting pair of pants is no easy task. Every tailor will be convinced of that.

Besides a correct and comfortable fit, the various shapes, which largely are influenced by frequently changing styles; also the size and the position of the lower extremities, will have to be taken into consideration.

There are very many different styles of pants; close fitting, very wide, etc. Also the deviations from the normal size of the legs are often very considerable. Furthermore, the formation of the legs and position of the feet. This has to be considered not only when cutting, but also the tailoring in each single case must be a different one, conforming with the deviation from the regular way.

However, many tailors will not pay the necessary attention to this matter, and, therefore, it is easily explained why pants show more faults than other garments.

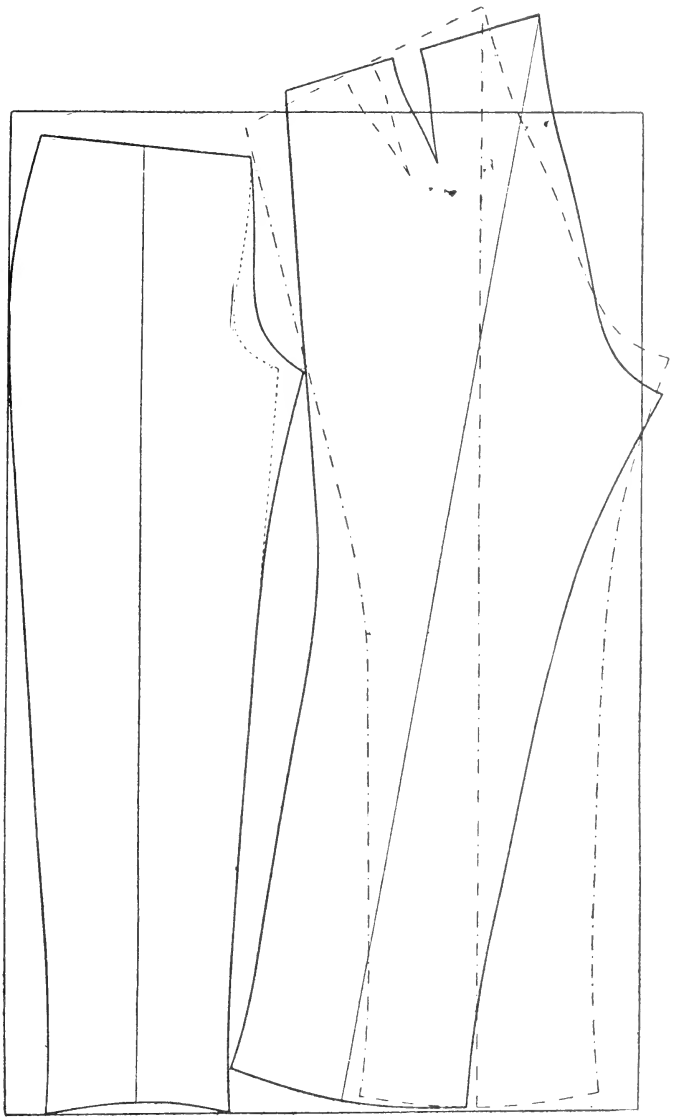
Naturally I cannot illustrate all faults which might show on pants. Therefore I will restrict myself to illustrate those only which appear very often on a narrow and a wide pair of pants.

I. Pants, Which Do Not Conform With the Crease.

Right at the start I illustrate a pair of pants which cannot be changed any more. The purpose of this illustration is to call attention to a fault, which shows very often on pants with a striped pattern, but which many tailors do not consider a fault.

Figure 92—the full lines—show that the back part of the pants is cut from the goods in a bias direction. Consequently, when the pants are ready, the stripes run irregular, ending pointed at the top and bottom, making the figure, when seen from the back view, bowlegged. (Fig. 93.) This has a very ugly effect and does not show good taste.

If one asks, "Why is it advantageous to cut the back part in this bias direction?" the answer frequently will be, "The piecing in the stride will become smaller and the back part can be

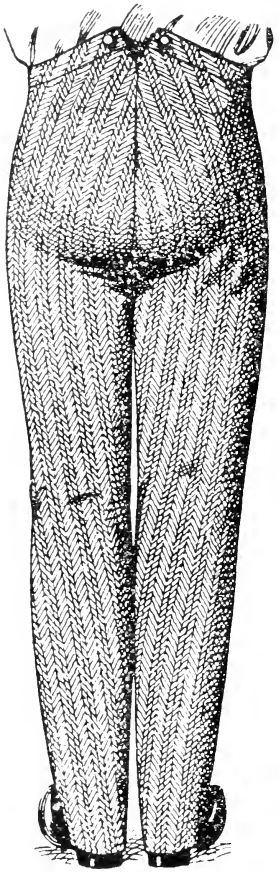


92

more easily shaped, especially on narrow pants, in the knee and at the calf, because there the goods is on the bias."

But these apparent advantages are without importance and do not correct the looks of the garment.

As a consequence of the bias direction of the back part the pants will cause discomfort, because the side seam from the knee upwards and the seat seam will come out nearly threadstraight, whereby the part above the seat will not have sufficient elasticity. Then nothing will make the pants look better and produce a more comfortable fit as when those two seams are cut more bias. The inseam, however, has been cut more threadstraight.



93

The bias position of the inseam is of disadvantage and will very often cause too much stretching out when working on it, resulting in an ill-fitting pair of pants.

How to cut out the back part of the pants in a correct way is previously mentioned and illustrated on Figure 92, with broken lines.

The aplomb line, which must run along the middle of the leg, lies in this way, parallel with the stripes of the goods. Same is the case with the front part of the pants. When the pants are ready, the direction of the stripes in front and in the back will be a perpendicular and entirely correct one.

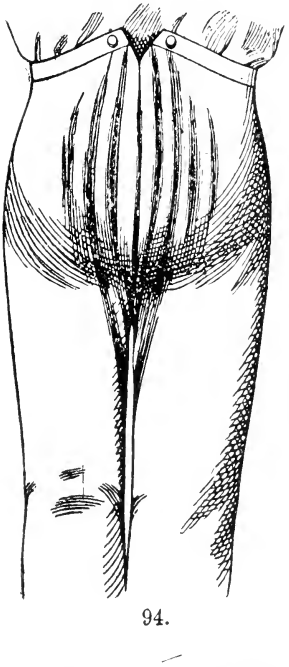
II. Uncomfortableness of the Pants When Bending Down and Sitting, Despite Surplus Width in the Seat.

Figure 94 shows a pair of pants which throws wrinkles straight down at the seat extending to the stride. Therefore it is too wide at these places.

Despite this the customer cannot bend or sit down without inconvenience. Also each movement of the leg to the front will

produce an uncomfortable tightness from the seat to the knees, consequently the front part will be pulled up.

As already mentioned before, a well-fitting garment should also be comfortable. Pants especially require this, and I think it necessary to illustrate how to accomplish it. Many tailors will not be able to accomplish comfortableness, and I am glad to help along with suggestions.



94.

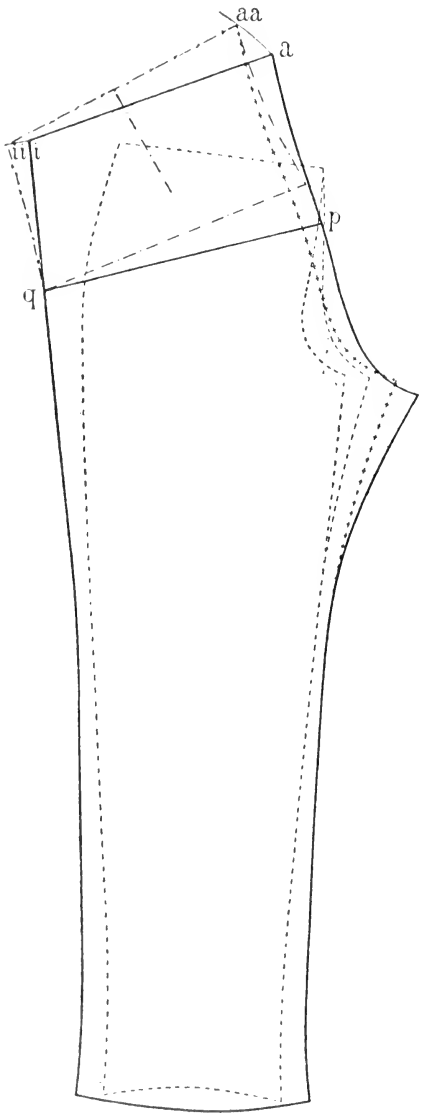
For instance, many tailors, also many customers, are under the impression that in order to have a pair of pants comfortable, the same have to be loose fitting in the stride; further, must have a large diameter in the seat (large stride piece), and finally must have a rather large addition to the width of the seat. But this is not the case. To the contrary, the customer, when trying on such a garment, will notice with consternation that he cannot bend or sit down in a comfortable way, although surplus width exists in the seat and at the thigh.

It is an accomplished fact, and it should always be taken as a rule, that the comfort and good fit of a pair of pants, when moving around, can only be effected if the pants fit as narrow and close as possible in the stride and the position in the back part of the pants is a bias one (directed to the side). But the latter is connected with certain conditions, which I will illustrate now.

Regarding the close fit in the stride, I will remark that even if the pants, when trying on the first time, appear to be too long in the inseam, this length will gradually diminish, after being worn a couple of times.

Every experienced tailor will have observed that pants, which were correct when delivered, became too short after worn three or four times. Therefore, every tailor should consider it his duty, when measuring, not to measure the inseam too short,

which cannot happen if the customer is requested to pull up the pants close in the stride. The tailor must insist on this, even if the customer should claim that the pants feel uncomfortable, as he will forget and not believe that a pair of pants, which seemed to be long enough when delivered became too short when worn a few times.



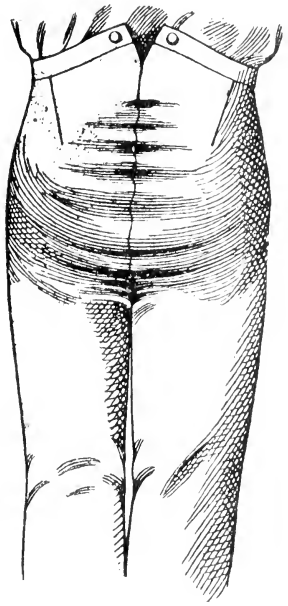
95.

A rather large piece in the stride will also have several disadvantages: The seat seam will be too hollow and the surplus width will show at the thigh as wrinkles. If, then, in order not to become a too large stride piece, the back part is cut too straight, the garment will become uncomfortable, even if, as is done in most cases, the missing width is added at the seat seam in a larger degree than would be necessary.

When walking, bending and sitting the seat will not gain in width, but will only extend in length. If, therefore, a pair of pants has to be comfortable at this place, a larger length, but never a larger width, will be necessary, and this is the case with the pants, which concerns us here.

Fig. 95, full lines, shows the faulty cut back part and the alteration in —.—.—.—. lines, which will accomplish the necessary lengthening of the seat. If a model is at hand, cut on this

from (p) to (q), (i) to (q), 2/3 of the rise, (a-p) about 1 inch more, but in such a way that the parts at (q) still will be together, move the back part in the seat seam 1 to 2 inches apart and fill the vacant space by pasting under a piece of paper. If a model is not at hand, use point (q), as turning point and draw from (i) to the left and from (a) upwards little arcs. Then at the arc from (a) to (aa-3) one has to go higher about 1½ to 2 inches. Then measure the width of the back part (a to l) from (aa) in the arc left from (i) (point ii) and correct (p) with (aa), (aa) with (ii) and (ii) with (q), as the sketch shows plainly.



96.

Through this manipulation the seat seam will receive more length, which will diminish towards the side. The corner at the side seam at (q) must not be filled out, as same is always the cause of cross wrinkles, as shown on Figure 96.

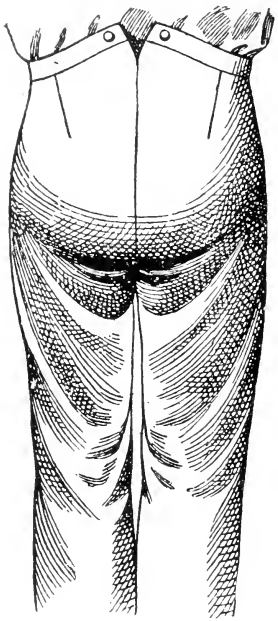
These wrinkles, however, which are covered by the coat and consequently are not apparent, can only remain in their place and not fall down lower if no unnecessary width exists across the seat and at the thigh. This surplus width may be removed at the places in question. See the + + + + lines on Figure 95.

III. Horseshoe Wrinkles at the Back Part.

Figure 97 shows a very disagreeable fault, wrinkles forming in a round way downwards, which we might call horseshoe wrinkles, according to their form, appearing below the seat and extending to the knee.

These only show on wide pants, if the back part has been cut out too much on the side, from the knee upwards; that is, has been cut too bias. It is a fact, and many of my colleagues by

long experience will have found this out, that the position of the back part (at the side seam from the knee, at the seat seam up to the waist line), depends on the width of the pants at the knee. When the pants are narrow they must be as bias as possible, and become straighter when wide in the knee.



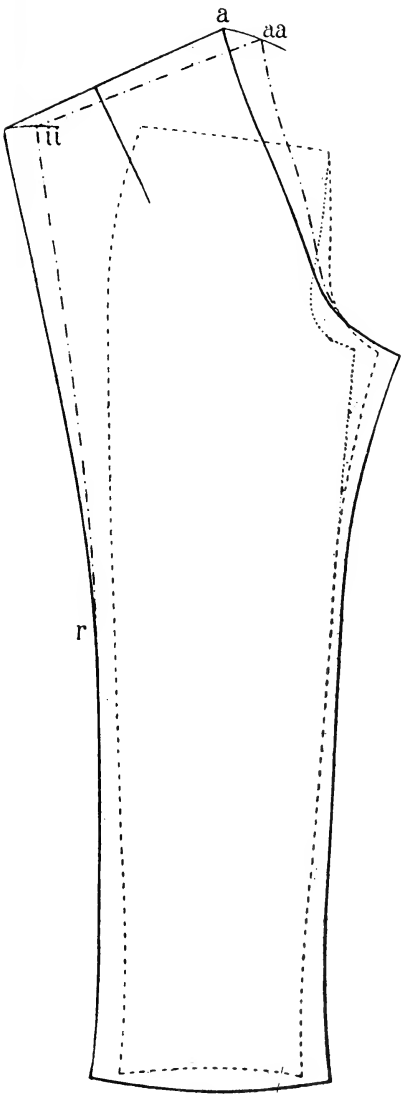
97.

By this bias position the seat seam will become longer, which is necessary for pants which are close fitting at the knees, as was illustrated before. The seat will gain in length when walking, bending and sitting and, therefore, in order to permit these movements, the garment has to be sufficiently long at the places in question.

The surplus length will, when the customer is not moving, go together in wrinkles below the seat, but will be held back through the close fit of the garment at the thigh and the seat. It will fall deeper on wider pants, which, as a rule, have also a larger width at the thigh, if the position of the back part is as bias as on narrow pants, which are close fitting at knee and thigh.

The surplus width at the knee existing on wider pants will make more room for movements. Therefore less length at the seat seam is necessary and the position of the upper back part will become straight. Many cutting systems do not consider this at all and according to a standard rule will first define on all sizes the direction of the seat seam and, according to this, the setting out at the side seam, with the result that the back part on wider pants will have a too bias position in the upper part and besides will be too wide at the thigh.

This will also be the case on these pants. Figure 98, full lines, shows the faulty back part. The —. —. —. lines show how the alteration has to be made.



98.

Draw, using the knee point as a center, from (i) to (a) to the right rather short arcs and measure on both according to the size of the wrinkles, about 1 to 2 inches. Then connect by these points (ii) and (aa) and finish the new side and seat in the same way as the sketch illustrates.

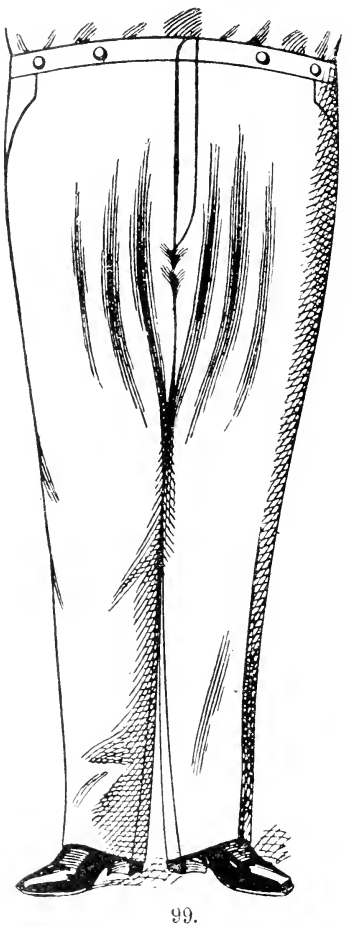
The position as a result will become more straight; the back part above will be shortened; the pants will be more narrow at the thigh and the wrinkles will disappear. But the comfort in sitting and bending will be influenced, because the surplus width at the knee does not replace entirely the length lost at the seat seam, which, however, cannot be avoided, if a pair of wide pants shall fit without wrinkles when standing and walking.

If the customer desires real comfort when bending and sitting, this can only be accomplished by making another alteration in the upper part and in a way as shown and illustrated on Figure 95. How an alteration of these and the previously described pants is possible cannot be said with certainty, but must be left in each case to the judg-

ment of my colleagues. In case the outlets are sufficient, and if one piece more at the back part does not matter—every tailor must know himself if his customer will stand for anything like that or not—in many cases the pants might be saved, or at least the fault be made less visible.

Before using these described alterations here it will be of advantage to study Chapter VII.

IV. Not Sufficient Abdomen.



99.

Figure 99 shows faults, very often noticed on persons with a large abdomen.

In the neighborhood of the flanks wrinkles will show, beginning at the top of the abdomen and diminishing to the knees; besides ray-formed wrinkles, which show at the back part, extending from the stride, which looks as if the width of the stride has been cut too narrow.

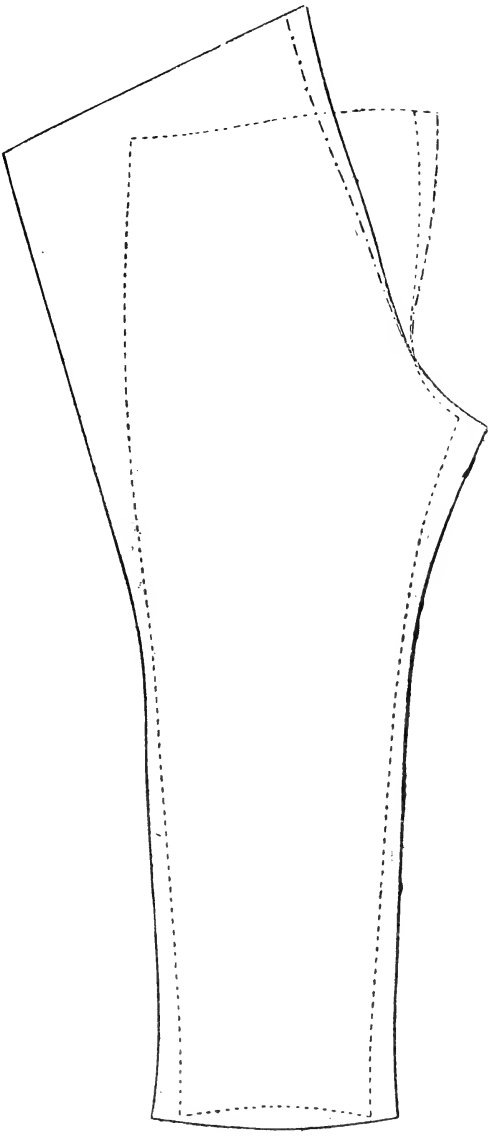
The customer will further notice a disagreeable pressure at the abdoment. If, in order to remove this pressure, the fly will be opened in front, the parts, diminishing downwards like a wedge, will drag apart.

Thereby the wrinkles at the front part will disappear, but the back part at the seat seam will be too wide, as much as the parts in front are apart.

All these faults result because the front part lacks sufficient abdomen, and because the missing goods in front was added to the side or back seam in order to get the correct widths of abdomen measure, consequently same runs in a more straight direction.

Figure 100 shows, in full lines, the faulty cut, the — . — . — . lines show, as it should be.

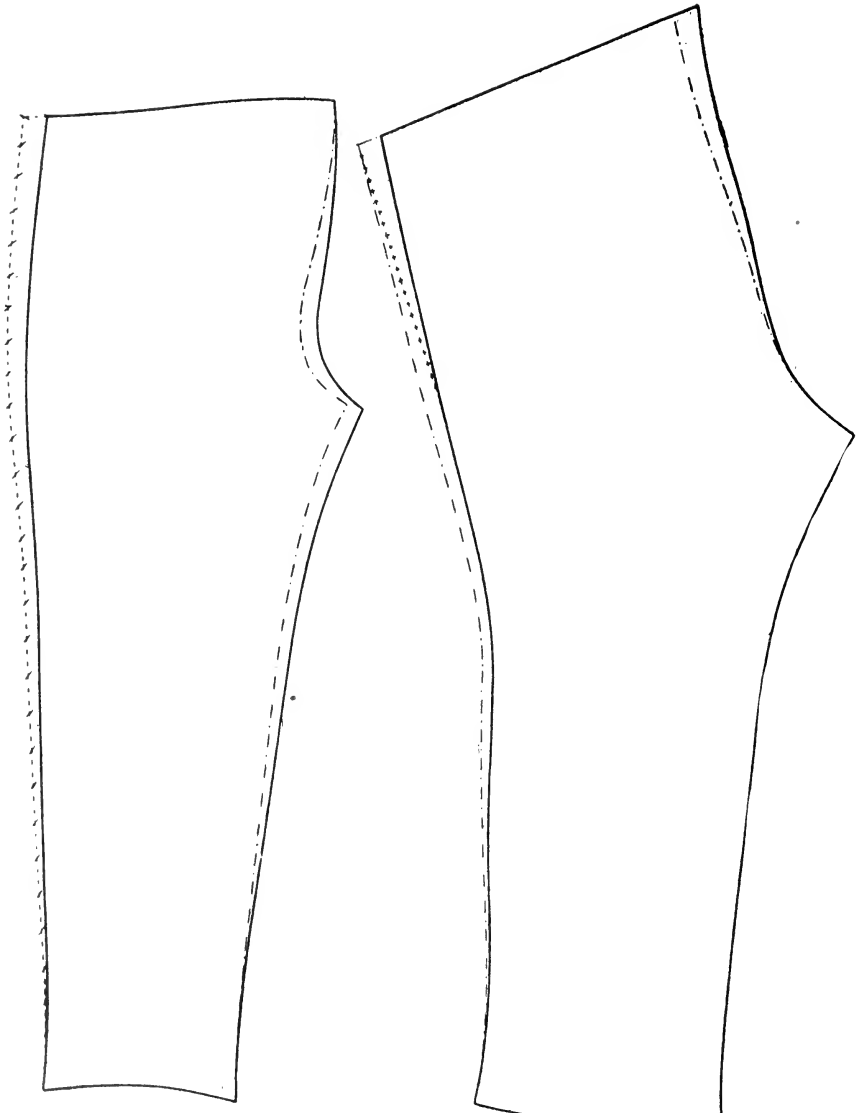
A thorough alteration is only possible if the entire pants are



100.

ripped apart. This has to be done as illustrated on Figures 101 and 102. The correctly drafted front part model has to be

placed at the waist band and at the inseam at the bottom, and the front part has to be cut accordingly.

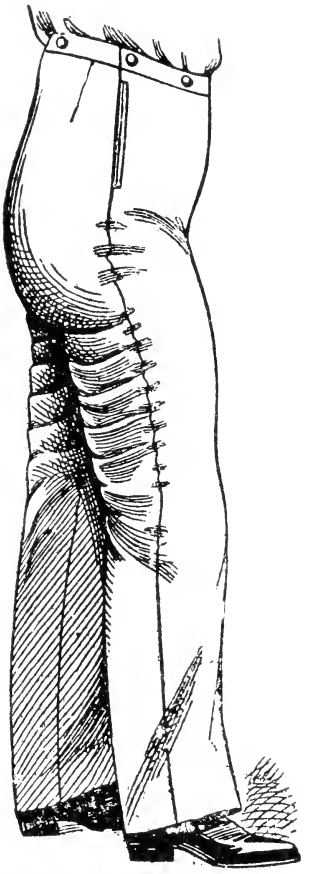


101.

102.

This will create the abdomen at the expense of the width of the front part, as can be seen on the — . — . — lines. Whatever

the front part by doing this, loses at the side seam (see the dotted and again crossed line), must be replaced by letting out the outlet at the side seam or in the center seam of the back part. This alteration will make the pants too wide in the waistband and seat, but the excess must only be taken away at the seat seam, whereby same will receive a more bias direction.



103.

If the side seam of the back part does not have an outlet it will be sufficient to add a wedge at the side seam to correspond with the waist measure (see Fig. 102) + + + + lines.

Otherwise the alteration in this case must be done as before.

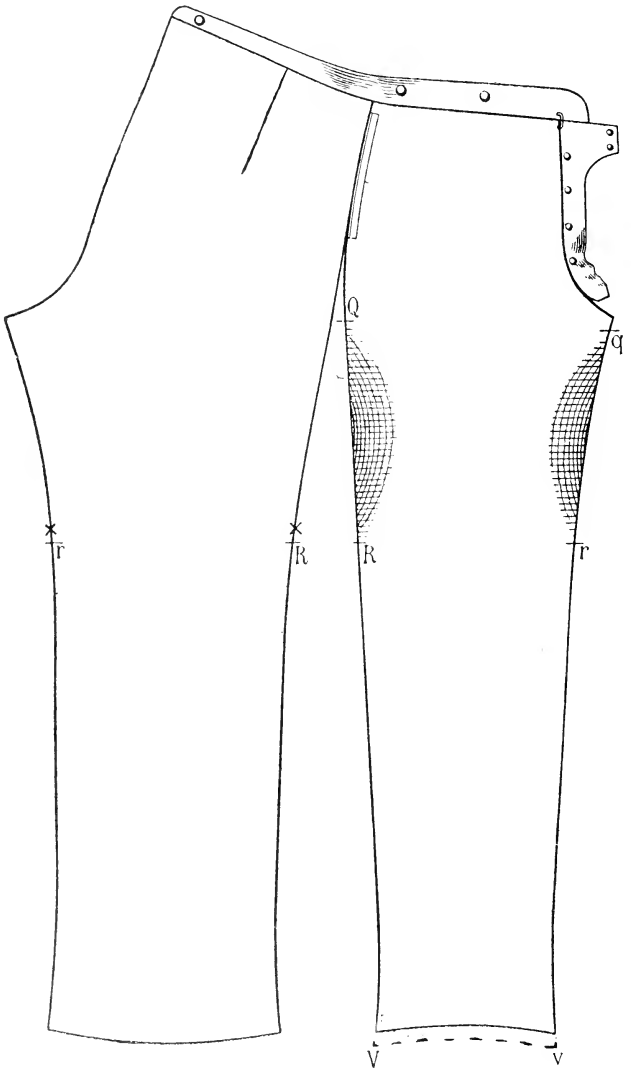
The pants at thigh and knee will become a little tighter, but this will not influence the correct fit in any way.

V. Curved Legs, Not Taken Into Consideration.

At the beginning I remarked that the legs differ very much in construction and form. The most evident forms, knock-knee and bowlegged, will be taken into consideration, but there are some which will be overlooked or not judged rightly. Figure 103 offers a proof of this. These pants have the following faults:

From the back of the leg ugly wrinkles stretch to the front. In front of the leg the pants are too tight and consequently stand off at the foot. Also often, despite a right measure, the inseam will be too short. All these faults resulted because the cutter, when measuring, did not notice that the customer had very rounded legs in front, which had to be considered when cutting and tailoring.

To alter this, when the garment is ready is a little troublesome. In order to correct this fault the inseams must be ripped open entirely, and the side seams as far as the pockets, but it



104.

must not be omitted, before starting, to mark front and back part a little above the knee, in order to know how the pants were sewed together (R and r, Fig. 104).

Now, in order to get the necessary room in the pants for the front rounding of the leg, the front part from (R to Q), at the side seam, and from (r to q) at the inseam has to be taken in evenly, more or less, according to the size of the rounding and the resulting width must be pressed to the center of front part.

As much as the part taken away amounts to, the front part on both sides will become shorter and, when sewing the legs together, it should be kept in mind that the points (R and r) should come that much above the same named points of the back part. (Fig. 104, both x.)

Through this necessary changing of the combination points the front part at the bottom will become too short, and therefore as much as necessary must be let out at this place, which is illustrated on my sketch —.—.—. lines (Fig. 104, V and v).

By doing this the front part will have the necessary length at the leg, the tightness will cease and the back part will fit smoothly. This illustration also has the purpose to call attention to how necessary it is to first locate the cause of the trouble before making alterations, as very often by using the scissors in an unnecessary way a garment might be spoiled, which otherwise could have been saved.

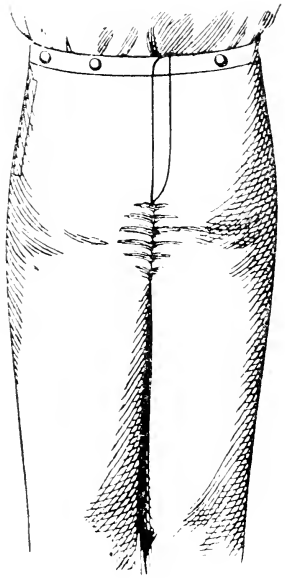
VI. Little Cross Wrinkles in the Stride at the Front Part.

Regarding the shaping of the single parts, opinions differ very much, opinions which usually are taken as a standard, but which cannot be considered such, because they never have been probed thoroughly.

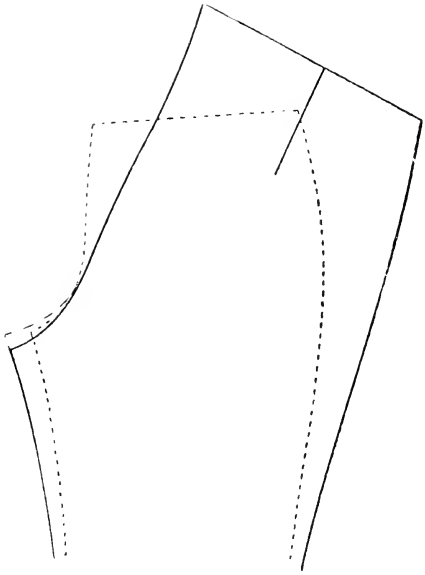
To those belong in the first place the shortening of the inseam at the back part of the stride, by which a better and more comfortable fitting shall be accomplished.

But if one looks closer as a result it will show that the damage caused is larger than the advantage gained, which usually is very dubious.

The damage is that the stretched out part always goes back again, consists of small, ugly cross-wrinkles in the front part, which appear even when standing, as Fig. 105 shows clearly.



105.



106.

This means the back part in this pleat has become too short, which shortness must be made good by letting out the outlet at the seat seam, or, if none is there, by piecing. Figure 106, the full lines, show the faulty cut, the — . — . — . lines show how the change has to be made.

VII. Wrinkles at the Back Part From the Stride to the Heel.

Very wrong opinions also exist regarding the shaping of the front part.

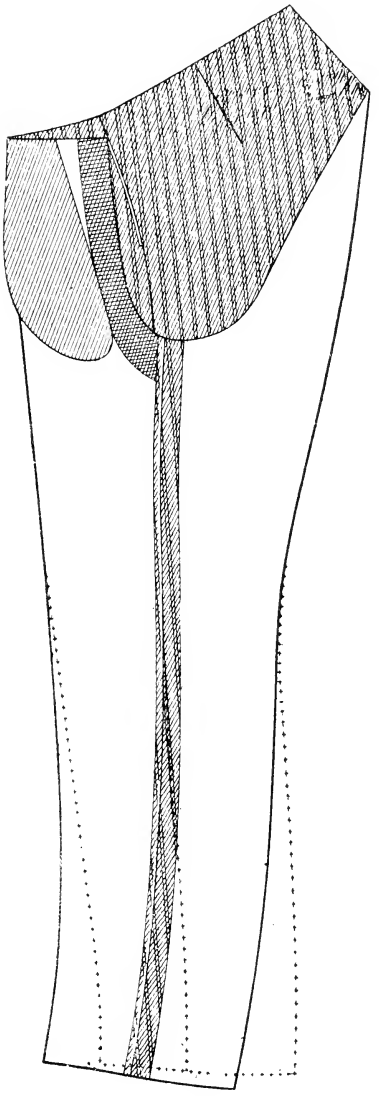
According to style, the front part at the bottom shall show more or less rounding, which can be accomplished by cutting same more or less hollow at this place, stretching at both sides and pressing in the center. If the form is rounded regularly, the stretching shall amount to only a trifle and shall extend to only about 5 to 8 inches from below (including the turnup).

For more tight fitting pants the stretching has to be done more extensively.

This illustration shows that for the shaping of the front part at the bottom the cut always has to be authoritative, which, however, not always will be considered, inasmuch as in each case, if

necessary or not, a too extensive shaping has been done at the place in question.

But this is not the worst fault; it only gives many pants, especially wide and straight falling ones, an ugly appearance at the foot.



107.

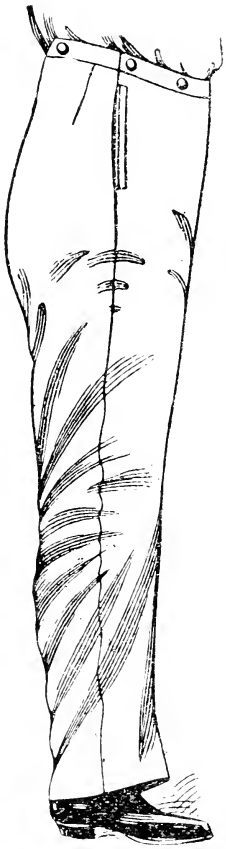
The damage will be worse if the front part will be stretched not only as far as the point marked, but up to the knee, or even farther, and correspondingly pressed in so that the front part put together will show a form, as illustrated in Figure 107, with full lines, instead of having a form like shown in the Figure with + + + + lines. This will happen oftener than one would think, on account of the wrong supposition that through this the pants in front and at the bottom will fit without wrinkles. If the back part is held in too much, which also is a very bad habit with many tailors, and which scarcely can be eradicated, the leg, after pressed, will appear as shown on Figure 107, with full lines. When the pants are delivered the customer will overlook this, but if he tries the garment on the pants will not fit correctly, as Figure 108 shows very plainly.

Many a colleague will look helplessly at such a pair of pants, which he cut with the utmost care and which now do not fit.

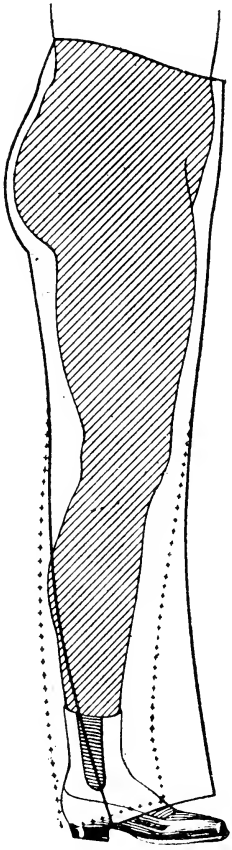
If one, however, looks at Figure 109 the explanation will be

easy. There we see the normal form of the human leg and, in full lines, the faulty form of the pants.

This, if it should correspond with the form of the first one, should be formed like shown with + + + + lines. At the body the faulty pants will be pulled back with force to the heel and wrinkles will be the result, like shown on Figure 108.



108.



109.

Besides, it will not be close to the instep, loose when walking, and in addition will cause tightness from the seat to the thigh and knee, which will be more noticed when bending and sitting. Also the front part through all these movements will be pulled upwards.

How to remedy these faults is self explanatory, if one reads the previous illustrations carefully. Rip the leg seams apart to the stride and press the parts again smoothly.

Then shape same, as much as necessary and sew the legs together, without holding the back part fully.

Here is the best occasion to add some explanation regarding the sewing together of the legs.

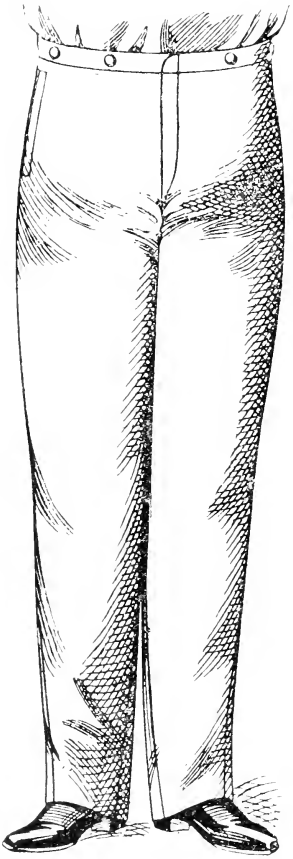
By sewing together, the back part on all points must be held in correspondingly at the side seam above hip and seat; also above the calf on narrow pants, if the pressing has gone back a little. Otherwise, and also at the inseam throughout same must be basted on smoothly. If the pants are wide and straight, back and front part from the stride have to be basted together smoothly at both seams.

If the pants are close fitting at the knee it is recommended to make the front part above both knees a little looser, to gain the necessary space for the kneecap and to prevent, when the pants are ready, the knees from forcing to the front, whereby wrinkles in the knee will be the result.

VIII. Twisting of the Pants.

Very often one sees pants which fit correctly in the upper part but the seams at the sides of the leg do not run straight down. Either the side seam comes too far to the front and inseam too far to the back, or the inseam comes too far to the front and the side seam too far to the back. Also often very ugly wrinkles appear at the leg, Figures 110 and 111. To judge such a fault first of all one has to consider the foot position of the customer. If same is regular, only a trifle outward, as figures show, and the seams run uneven, the fault has to be ascribed to the workmanship, as front and back parts are not sewed together correctly. The damage is not so bad as it looks and is easy to remedy. Rip the inseam open entirely; the seat seam from the front part to the back, at the back part a little bit;

then place the front part at the back part in the same way as when cutting and so that the seams run right. Now place the inseam of the back part smoothly on the inseam of the front part and you will see that in the first mentioned case that if the inseam comes too far to the front the back part moves correspondingly high in the opposite way; if the inseam comes too far to the front the back part will move correspondingly lower.



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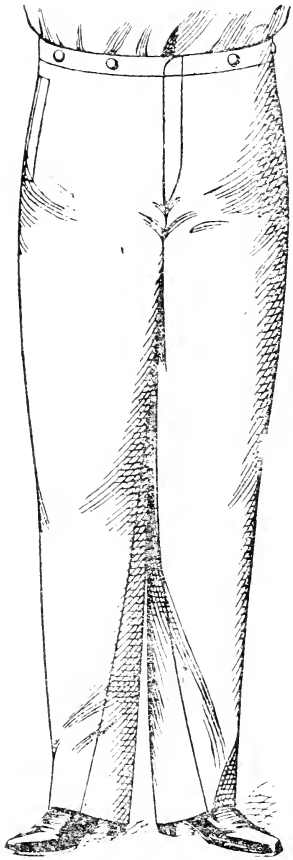


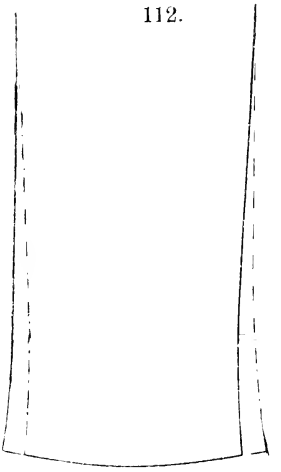
111

Now mark this position exactly on both parts and sew the inseams together accordingly. This will necessitate a regulation of the seat seam and of the lower edge, which alteration need not be explained.

IX. When Feet Which Stand Outward or Inward Excessively Have Not Been Considered.

Also the seams will not run in a right way if, when cutting, it was not taken into consideration that the position of the feet was excessively outward, a position which one notices every day on scores of people. If the feet are excessively outward the side seam will come too far to the front, and the inseam too far back. The opposite is the case if the position is excessively inward. The inseam will come too far to the front and the side seam too far to the back. To remedy these faults a mutual displacing of the parts at the inseam will not be sufficient. It is necessary to make this alteration in the cut.

112.



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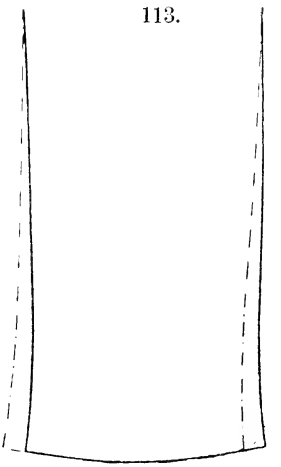

An excessive outward foot position will require the letting out of the outlet at the inseam, extending to the knee and the taking off of the same amount at the side seam, as illustrated on Figure 112 with —.—.—. lines. At the front part the stretched part at the bottom must be pressed in at the side seam and the rounding has to be accomplished from the inseam.

The opposite alteration is necessary when the feet are set excessively inward, Figure 113, the —.—.—. lines; also the shaping of the front part must be the opposite one.

Closing Word

In concluding this book, may I not be permitted to say a few words? The tailor and cutter of today lives with the time and spirit of his day; he is responsive to new ideas; he has the ambition to satisfy his customer, and he always feels it his duty to go to the bottom of all things relating to his profession. You never will make a success in life if you are superficial, and it is not saying too much that nowadays the art of tailoring is highly developed, and a tailor who is not progressive, painstaking and conscientious will notice that in time his neighbor gets his trade, and will realize his mistake too late.

This book shows you how to avoid mistakes, and how to correct them. Read it carefully, act accordingly; do not be deceived by thinking that your customer will not notice small faults, faults which you notice as a tailor, but which, as you think, your customer will not notice. He will, or if not, somebody else will call his attention to it. The result will be your business decreasing, and the business of your competitor increasing.

Always be wide awake and success in life will be assured to you.

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